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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab League Denounces Partition of Hebron Mosque

[illegible]

[illegible]

international legality. The statement noted that the mosque is a purely Islamic edifice that is open for everybody to visit, but not during the prayer times of Muslims.

Palestinian Affairs

Police Release Hamas Members Accused of Attacks

[illegible] (Gaza Strip, Sept 1) (AFP)—Palestinian police on Thursday (1 September) released the last five Hamas militants imprisoned after attacks last month that left an Israeli civilian dead and seven wounded, Palestinian officials said.

The five Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) members, who were arrested on August 15, were released from Gaza central prison.

A total of 16 militants were rounded up by police the day after Hamas claimed two attacks on an Israeli roadblock in Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip.

Fourteen were released the next day after questioning.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin threatened to halt the withdrawal of Palestinian officials on the West Bank after the attacks unless the autonomy authority took "serious action to fight those opposed to the peace process."

Hamas Condemns Israeli-Moroccan Liaison Accord

[illegible] (Amman, Sept 1) (AFP)—The Palestinian Moslem fundamentalist group HAMAS condemned Morocco's agreement with Israel on Thursday (1 September) to open liaison offices, branding it another setback for the Palestinians.

"It is yet another black page against the Palestinian people on the part of the Moroccan leadership," HAMAS spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah told AFP. "We express our bitterness."

Ghawshah referred to the creation of Moroccan Jews in Israel after the Jewish state was set up in 1948.

Morocco had also harmed the Palestinian cause by causing Egypt into making peace with Israel in 1979 and the PLO to sign the autonomy deal in September 1993, the spokesman said.

HAMAS is fiercely opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Morocco and Israel announced earlier Thursday that they would open liaison offices, in a first step toward establishing full diplomatic ties. Rabat is to open a similar office in the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Hamas Condemns Israeli 'Measures' Inside Mosque

[illegible] (Gaza, Sept 1) (AFP)—Hamas has condemned Israeli measures inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron.

[illegible] The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has said that it is not at all strange for the Israeli occupation authorities to take a series of steps and measures inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque under the guise of separating Jewish and Muslim worshippers in the building, which has remained closed since the grisly massacre there.

The movement condemned the Judaization measures as a clear violation of the sanctity of religious shrines and a vile attack on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Hamas warned the Zionists against carrying on with their balancing measures, and called on our Palestinian masses to resist the vile aggression on the Ibrahimi Mosque.

The movement held Yasir Arafat and the Egyptian authority responsible for encouraging all these balancing measures against our holy sites. It also called on the Arab and Moslem community to shake off its passiveness and apathy.

Settling Refugees Warned Against

[illegible] (Amman, Sept 1) (AFP)—[illegible]

[Report by Imad al-Dimati]

[Text] Gaza—Dr Mahmud az-Zahhar, who is close to Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), has warned against settling Palestinian refugees and eliminating the possibility of repatriating them to their homeland.

He said that international plans for giving permanent residence to diaspora Palestinians come within framework of colonialism's old scheme, which began in the 50's, to settle the refugees in various locations with the aim of eliminating the possibility of repatriating them to their homeland. He added that the plans of settlement and emigration to Europe are part of a sequence to liquidate the Palestinian problem and exploit the tragic conditions in which diaspora Palestinians are living so that they will renounce their right.

Az-Zahhar explained that these plans will not abolish the right of a Palestinian to return to his homeland. This right will remain in force with every responsible individual until it is realized. He said, "I am certain that diaspora Palestinians are more eager than anyone else to return to their homeland."

Leaders Discuss Meeting With Egypt's 'Amr Musa

[illegible] (Jericho, Voice of Palestine, 1 Sept) (1730 GMT, 1 Sep 94)

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with a Palestinian delegation led by Faysal al-Husayni at Umari

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Hosni in Jerusalem yesterday. Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, Hanan Tahboub, Dr. Nabil Qasis and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the situation in Jerusalem and Hebron and ways to support the peace process. Hanan Tahboub, head of the Higher Islamic Council, spoke to our correspondent Ahmad Rafiq 'Awad about the meeting and the issues that were discussed.

[Begin recording] ['Awad] What did you discuss with Egyptian Minister 'Amr Musa?"

[Tahboub] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With his excellency the great minister who is visiting his country and his people because Jerusalem is the city of all Arabs and Muslims, we reviewed the situation of the city and the suffering of its people due to the pressures applied by the Israeli occupation authorities and the conditions imposed on the city. They call it a unified capital, but it is in fact an attempt to overreach the separation of the halt [as heard] from the rest of the occupied lands.

['Awad] Have you discussed the situation in the so-Qalqilyah Mosque?

[Tahboub] We discussed the situation of the holy al-Qalqilyah Mosque and briefed him on the occupation there and on the measures Israel is trying to impose. We handed him a memo in this regard.

['Awad] What was his opinion?

[Tahboub] He says that this is an Islamic mosque and even Israel's own Israeli measures as a Muslim mosque. [illegible] performance of prayers or rituals by non-Muslims, is rejected.

['Awad] [Words indistinct] that Egypt would pressure Israel to change the situation in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque?

[Tahboub] He had a complete image of the situation and promised that Egypt, which is an influential Arab and Islamic state, will do its best to support Palestinian and Muslim rights in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque. [end recording]

Dr. Nabil Qasis, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, also spoke to our correspondent 'Ahmad 'Awad.

[Begin recording] ['Awad] Dr. Nabil Qasis, what did you discuss in the round of talks with Egyptian Minister 'Amr Musa?

[Qasis] Of course we talked about the situation in Jerusalem and the importance of Arab support in general, and that of Egypt in particular. There was also general talk on the situation of the Palestinian Authority and the problems facing us as Palestinians in laying the foundations of the Palestinian Authority. There was a quick review of matters because the meeting was relatively short, about 45 minutes. But we covered all the issues that we wanted to discuss in this regard. We referred to the point of view of Minister 'Amr, which represents a constant Egyptian position that we highly appreciate.

['Awad] Does it support the Palestinian position as regards Jerusalem and the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Qasis] Of course the Egyptian position has always been supportive. On this occasion, the Egyptian position was reemphasized. [end recording]

Abu Di Comments on Jerusalem, Orient House

[AU290923] [Text] Jerusalem 22 [illegible] 29 Aug 94 p 14

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PNA, in Kuwaiti 'Alam' place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Salam] There are attempts by Israel and some Arab regimes to strike at the Palestinian and Arab characteristics of Jerusalem and to limit that to the holy sites. Does our Palestinian leadership have a clear plan to preserve Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Palestinian state?

[Abu Di] Certainly. Arab Jerusalem is always and forever in the heart of every Palestinian action, because it is the capital of occupied Palestine and will be its independent capital. Hence, acting now for the sake of Jerusalem is important in order to preserve its identity, its Arab and Palestinian characteristics, and its economic and social institutions until we reach a final settlement that leads to regaining this city as the capital of our future Palestinian state. The important thing is to preserve Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem until we reach this final settlement.

[Salam] How can the Jerusalem institutions be preserved?

[Abu Di] This calls for political and economic action. Political action is the struggle to prevent anything from affecting these institutions. This is done by confronting the Israelis, which can be carried out by cooperating with various Islamic and international parties and in symbolic actions such as meeting on the roof of Orient House and on our visits to Jerusalem, preserving our right to administer all our institutions in Jerusalem, and struggling with all might to prevent Israel from depriving us of this right. Also, we can do this by exposing all Israeli attempts to continue and expand settlement activity in Jerusalem and by adopting firm political positions toward this issue.

As for economic action, it consists of arranging the necessary funds for managing and developing Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, repairing houses, preserving the population of Jerusalem, and providing assistance to all institutions.

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[Passage on the report in the meetings in Jerusalem, construction of housing units, and maintenance of the continuity of efforts] practical steps that will be actually implemented by our Palestinian leadership."

[Abu Mu'in] In our recent meetings with King Fahd and Prince Crown Prince Sultan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government [illegible] an important role in the efforts. In these meetings the main focus was on the Saudi and UAE role in fulfilling this task. We received a positive response in this regard.

[Passage] Abu Mu'in stressed the role of Orient House in Jerusalem. And how do you interpret the fact that the PLO has agreed to observe Israeli instructions imposed on its activities, especially in East Jerusalem?

[Abu Mu'in] It is different between the PLO and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The institutions in Jerusalem are not subordinate to the PNA but to the PLO.

[Passage] Does it not a satisfactory answer to the agreement signed with Israel that PLO institutions not to carry out any activity or set up any institution in Jerusalem. This endangers the continued activity of Orient House. How do you interpret this, bearing in mind that the document has been published in the Hebrew press?

[Abu Mu'in] What you said is incorrect and was not mentioned in what these newspapers reported. We have the agreement and it will be published in the newspapers in full. What has been published is inaccurate and wrong. What is correct is that no institutions subordinate to the PNA will be established in Jerusalem. There is a big difference between the PNA and the PLO. The PNA and Orient House were established by the PLO, which Israel has recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Hence, the PLO is responsible for both institutions—the PNA on the one hand, and Orient House on the other. As for the PNA, it is restricted now to Gaza and Jericho and to the five percent in the West Bank. Its boundaries do not include Jerusalem, because Jerusalem is excluded from the framework in which the PNA operates until we reach the final settlement. The PLO, however, is responsible for all Palestinians in the world, foremost of all the Palestinians in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Leaves For Washington

[Unattributed] Jericho, Gaza (Palestine) in Arabic 0330 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Shaʻath, minister of Planning and International Cooperation, left the Gaza Strip yesterday for Washington to participate in the talks that will begin tomorrow among the donor countries' delegations to prepare for a conference for the donor countries in Paris on 12 September.

Arafat Claims Force-17 Offers to Jordan

[Unattributed] Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 24

[Text] An offer for the Force-17 headed by Fathi al-Nabigh, after Mikhail Tarzi, closest to Abu al-Walid in Amman has been [illegible] the direct instructions of Palestinian President Yasir Arafat to a message to cut down on expenditures.

PLO To Allow Pro-Jordanian Paper To Publish

[Unattributed] Other Party AFP in English 0351 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 7 (AFP)—The Palestinian Authority has given permission for the pro-Jordanian AN-NAHAR newspaper to publish again more than a month after closing it down, a PLO [illegible] said Friday (2 September).

"They applied to us for the right to publish and we have agreed," source [illegible] Parach Abu Middayn told AFP.

"There is no problem. They can start again any time," he added.

The authority shut the daily in the end of July after an Israeli-Jordanian declaration which recognized special rights for Jordan over Muslim sites in Jerusalem—rights the Palestinians claim.

It was the first clampdown on the Arabic press since autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on May 4 and provoked a storm of complaint.

PLO chairman Yasir Arafat's authority in Gaza said AN-NAHAR pursued a line "harmful to Palestinian national interests."

All the newspaper officers in East Jerusalem management said the newspaper should be back on the streets quickly.

"The PLO granted permission yesterday and we could be out as early as Monday," one editor told AFP.

Management denied agreeing to any conditions set by the authority in return for being allowed to reappear.

AN-NAHAR claimed a circulation of between 17,000 and 15,000, but the true figure was believed to be about half that.

At the same time, the Palestinian authority has given the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas permission to publish a new daily newspaper called "PALESTINE" Abu Middayn said.

The closure of AN-NAHAR, shortly after Jordan and Israel issued a peace declaration, prompted the owners of a pro-Jordanian weekly called AKBAR AL-HAL-LAL to shut down in protest at Palestinian censorship.

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Full TV Transmission To Start in October

[illegible]

[Report by Carmit Valensi]

[illegible] Minister Maqdi, general coordinator of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation in the Gaza Strip, has stated that the full television transmission will start at the beginning of October and will cover all areas of the state of Palestine. He added that a special television station has been set up in the Gaza Strip agency for Director of President Yasir Arafat. Head of the Palestinian television. He pointed out the station's test transmission was launched yesterday from the Gaza studios in al-Mintar[illegible].

Maqdi said that the test transmission will begin from [illegible] to 1230 (1030 to 1430 GMT) from the Gaza studios and will cover the Gaza Strip and its five branch units. The transmission includes news and various programs. He explained that the test transmission can be seen in [illegible].

Maqdi said: "We in Gaza are an integral part of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation headed by Radwan Abu Ayyash, who is now in the United States to obtain a television tower and transmission equipment."

Income Taxes in Self-Rule Authority Secured

[illegible] Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic [illegible] 30 Aug 94 pp 1, 20

[Excerpt] Cairo--In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Dr. Atef Alawnah, head of the Palestinian Tax Department in Gaza and Jericho, has said that the self-rule administration has so far secured $2 billion [as published] from income taxes. He said: The income tax has been calculated as follows: Eight percent on incomes of $2,500 and ending with 40 percent on the incomes exceeding $11,000. He said that these taxes have been taken from more than 30 sectors adding that the entire amount will be spent on the expenditures of the self-rule authority, particularly since the expected European support has not been received yet. [passage omitted]

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Algeria

Cabinet Meeting on Relations With Morocco Reported

[AU2309082594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Sep 94]

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting on Monday. A government statement said that following the decisions unilaterally taken by the Moroccan authorities to impose entry visas on Algerian nationals and the Algerian decision regarding the closure of our borders proceeding from the principle of reciprocity, the council noted with satisfaction the measures taken by all the concerned authorities to allow the return home of our nationals in Morocco and the safe crossing of those of our compatriots living abroad who had been spending their holidays in Morocco.

The head of state has issued instructions to ensure a firm dealing with this situation particularly through implementation of the decision on closing our land borders and the setting up of modern visa requirements, inform us and assess the repercussions of this affair. [passage omitted]

U.K. To Prevent FIS Official Haddam From Entering

[AU2609120594 London ARNA in English 1130 GMT 7 Sep 94]

[Text] London, Sept 7, ARNA—Britain is to prevent a senior representative of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) from entering Britain despite having invited to address the most prestigious foreign policy event in London. The decision to bar Anwar Haddam has been made known in unchronologically outspoken language from the Foreign Office briefing British journalists who suggest the move is above the hard line taken on France against Algeria's oppressors.

Diplomatic sources of THE GULFARDIAN last Wednesday said the theme was to avoid an Anglo-French row. His counterpart from the London INDEPENDENT Yasmina Sahili, more widely described the decision as being aimed at "Muslim fundamentalists."

Haddam was elected as an MP for the FIS as it was on the point of winning the last general election in Algeria in January 1992 before the Army seized power. Since then he has been regarded as president of the FIS parliamentary delegation to Europe and the U.S. and currently has an office in Washington.

One of the most surprising aspects of the British ban is that the FIS representative has not even filed a visa application to speak at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in London later this month. When he was originally invited by [the] institute to discuss the Algerian crisis last month the Foreign Office was quoted as as saying not to expect any of its staff in the audience. But there was no indications of barring Haddam.

The official line now being given was of his rejected definition of the Islamic Armed Council, which has ordered all foreigners to leave Algeria and in Britain's case, "puts him very close to people who have clearly committed acts of violence."

Such allegations are said to have been refuted by Haddam, who, according to THE GULFARDIAN will yearn to go ahead with applying for a visa.

HAMAS Leader on Crisis, Dialogue

[AU2609141594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Aug 94 p 4]

[Text of interview with Sheikh Makhlut Nafrawi, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, by Abdallah al-Hajj in London—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hajj] How would you assess the stand of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) vis-a-vis the dialogue and the crisis in Algeria?

[Nafrawi] We work in accordance with what our religion and homeland dictate in such crises. Therefore, we proposed to embark on mediation efforts to ensure some of the FIS legitimate rights. The historical and Islamic responsibility calls on the FIS leadership to take the initiative and sit down at the dialogue table in order to demand what it deems as its rights. Experiments proved that what is possible today will be impossible tomorrow. The crisis in Algeria has reached a serious turning point in terms of bloodshed and violations. Islamic scholars are primarily responsible for the violations of Islamic shari'ah. At this serious turning point, factional ambitions, excesses, and the attempt to monopolize the crises have become clear to all.

The continuation of violence and destruction does not serve any interest and does not serve any good. It is the demand of the hidden forces and the conspirators, enemies, and those who hide behind a front that conceals their weakness. This weakness will be revealed by the legitimate leadership of the FIS. This is because stability will reveal and isolate those people. They want to prevent the continuation of the dialogue so that armed confrontation, in which the sons of Algeria are lost, will continue. Let us fear God and save this people. The FIS leadership should announce its readiness to stop armed violence and to return to peaceful political work. It will then find supporters among faithful people.

[Al-Hajj] It has been said that external pressure was brought to bear on Algerian parties to not participate in the dialogue to foil it and embarrass President Zeroual. What do you say?

[Nafrawi] Foreign partners have interests in seeing the Algerians reach a solution to their crisis because the

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[illegible] (7)
[illegible] September 1994

[illegible] AFRICA

[illegible] in the Arab Maghreb and the Mediterranean [illegible] Algeria's stability and security. The statement is [illegible] support for the current [illegible] dialogue [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] bargaining, which is contrary to democratic [illegible] and respect for the will of the majority, as well [illegible] the other parties.

The current political environment of Algeria is an [illegible] brief ideological dimension [illegible] and from the African and Mediterranean geographical dimension. Algeria cannot become something else and [illegible] countries have proven this. The bargains to [illegible] an Algerian sovereignty will only present a [illegible] opportunity for an [illegible] for sovereignty of others will ask the others not to interfere in our affairs.

[illegible] the [illegible] must know that the Algerian people are ready to defend their national unity and territorial integrity. Some foreign regimes try to exploit the situation to achieve [illegible] gains. These regimes believe that these gains can only be achieved through pressure and escalation of tension. In addition to this, there are the political and economic lobbies affiliated with some criminal forces, as well as some parties that try to [illegible] their image and to walk on the bodies of others to achieve their objectives. However, the people will be living in wait for such practices.

[Al-Hayat]: Who is behind the escalation of violence?

[National]: Violence in Algeria is escalated every day. There are signs of infiltration. While every regime of the region [illegible] and [illegible] involved. We say that the enemies of dialogue are behind this escalation. They are the members of [illegible], who run after their own interests. They are the stranded ones who have been discarded by their people. They are the ones of the "environment" [illegible] during the Algerian revolution, who refused to repent [illegible] their actions, and to go back to God and to their people. They are also the arms dealers, the enemies of the people and the nation. Regrettably, they claim that they have national values and are affiliated with the Islamists. He who supports violence, directly or indirectly, or he who remains silent about acts of violence or advocates violence, can only be a suspect, misled, stranded, or a Western historical person.

Violence can be contained by more complete respect of the government becomes convinced that the law is supreme, is not the only means to resolve the problems of country, but it should resort to a serious and courageous national dialogue in order to show that it is not fighting religious people under the cover of fighting violence, because if it really does so, then this will strengthen the position of those who support or carry out acts of violence. Dialogue is the best medicine for this disease which has infected and will continue to infect other Islamic countries.

[Al-Hayat]: What is your assessment of the progress made in the national dialogue so far? Do you think that the government is serious this time about finding a solution to the Algerian crisis?

[National]: The continuity of national dialogue and the conviction by both the opposition and the government that such dialogue is the optimal method to resolve the multifaceted Algerian crisis is in itself an achievement that we strive to realize. In the final round of dialogue we sensed that the politicians have learned a lesson by dealing with our proposals, as well as the proposals of other parties, and it seems that it is working to evade the mistakes committed in past rounds of dialogue. This is self-evident in the following points:

- The government has accepted our proposal to set up a joint commission, composed of the parties participating in the dialogue, to contact the detained FIS leaders to see what their demands are and try to prepare conditions of convergence. This will serve in making all parties sit at the negotiating table and open Algerian blood. We preferred that a committee to contact the legitimate and historical leadership of the FIS be formed immediately after submitting the proposal. But it seemed that some people were hesitant.

- The government has shown its desire, as expressed by the statement of defense and the head of the state, to respect the election period, go to the ballot boxes, and ensure that the people's national army will respect the election results. A pledge was made in this regard.

- The government has requested that the parties take part in running the government during the interim period, including the formation of the government. From the outset of the crisis, we proposed that the government be a coalition. We have asserted this recently.

- The government has left the door open to the parties that boycotted the round, given that there are some hesitant and personal reasons behind the boycott, which unfortunately make things even worse.

In view of the readiness by the government, the challenges posed before the dialogue, the time factor is necessary for the efforts of both the government and the opposition to be pooled in order to convince the parties that were absent, whether out of conviction or out of reflexitivity, of the need to participate, especially the Socialist Forces Front and the FIS. This would divert the attempts of those who seek to undermine national unity and to destroy the people's achievements in terms of liberties, human rights, and progress, and mobilize the masses and restore their confidence in the state and in the state's obligations, and agree on possible solutions. The people's confidence, which is currently shaken, might lessen even further with the continuation of international complacence in the region.

It is worth noting that we are observing the principles set forth in the government's formula. We say that we are in

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are always prepared to engage in a dialogue, as long as it has a clear foundation and objectives. This is not the case today.

[Lusaka] What do you recommend?

[Al Ahmadi] The holding of a conference, like the one we are in South Africa in order to organize the transition toward democracy. A conference with the government, the rebels and the representative parties, and forgetting the FIS political leadership, in other words, those people who want to work toward a return to peace and civil coexistence. There must also be serious discussions towards the release of prisoners held for expressing their opinions. Genuine organizations must be able to create a new political dynamism capable of gradually eliminating terrorism. The essential thing is that the population becomes confident again and feels hope. Only a just settlement can be achieved in the political field. Confidence to be placed, all and in the name of Algerians, which is weighing heavily on public life, is not lacking.

[Lusaka] Are the fundamentalist interlocutors and the FIS and its leaders leaders? Have they not now been completely outstripped by the "ulema"?

[Al Ahmadi] It was before the interruption of the election process in early 1992, different fundamentalist forces were against the participation of the FIS in the elections and preached violence. There were already a number of local cases. The FIS politicians succeeded in defusing this action. Obviously, the interruption in the election process, the imprisonment of the FIS's political leaders, and the closing off of the political field gave the radicals a free hand to retake the advantage on the ground. But today we can see that there are cracks appear different currents exist that there is an evolution among fundamentalists in the ground.

All the Country's Democrats Must Unite

[Lusaka] There are also "ulema" in the government.

[Al Ahmadi] Yes. That is why a dialogue with the government is only possible if the various sides can get along. When there is a core board of state in Algeria, as it already functioned within the government itself and when we talks about dialogue, the other talks about exclusion.

An atmosphere needs a clear position from the government, which will make the people confident. Just look at what happened in South Africa. The peace process succeeded after years of hatred and racial injustice because confidence could be established between groups of blacks and whites. Without this confidence, how could the process have withstood all the attacks, ruses, and pressure. This confidence is lacking in Algeria. It is impossible to establish it so long as there are threats from the government.

[Lusaka] So it was time to reconcile with the Rally for Culture and Democracy, not under the leadership of the Movement for Berber Culture, which is more a social than political entities in the fundamentalists, but the government has reconciled along the lines of the so-called Kabylie.

[Al Ahmadi] The democratic path must not be put another movement or an alliance of ordinary parties. Quite the contrary. Dialogue is for all the country's democrats, in the widest meaning the fundamentalists, moreover, the address is to the Democrats, the democratic path will not be found without it will not a completely parties, but with the parties.

"I Believe in the Algerians' Collective Reflexes"

[Lusaka] What practical should the international community take?

[Al Ahmadi] The key to the crisis lies in Algeria and there is no question of interfering in its affairs. It must not, however, hesitate and call for democratizing process. Diverse support for the government. Having said that, I would call for a wide ranging diplomatic initiative, by international conference in which the candidates of the European Union, the countries of the Mediterranean basin and the United States would participate, in order to help the Algerians bring back peace and build up a democracy. As we said about the South Africa. In order to use the Algerians' desire to negotiate among themselves and to create the framework and conditions for a serious, and consensus that has been suppressed.

[Lusaka] What do you expect the European Parliament and Algeria?

[Al Ahmadi] I do not have all the information needed to make a statement.

[Lusaka] Do you have a return to Algeria?

[Al Ahmadi] My return is linked to the resolution of a genuine crisis. Political changes. I will only return to participate in a new process in Algeria. The return of peace and the consolidation of the democratic process.

[Lusaka] This stage is getting further away, is it not?

[Al Ahmadi] Yes, indeed, political life is difficult to predict. It may very well be the case that the circumstances evolve. I have always had confidence in the collective reflexes of the Algerians. The great movement of the end of the 1980's was decided collectively by the people themselves, and by the Algerians themselves. I therefore do not rule out the possibility of a positive change towards a way of saying "that is enough now". We are not going to continue destroying our country.

Lisbonne Member Reacts to President's Statement

[Lusaka] On the subject [text] Mohamed Boudiaf's assassination, what has changed within the parties during the two previous

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meetings within the context of the national dialogue rounds to open public media for the political formations. President Liamine Zeroual issued yesterday his directive in which he stressed that the use of the state media was guaranteed for the parties within the framework of respecting the laws and regulations in force.

To learn about the political parties' reactions towards the President's directive, we contacted a number of political formations, but failed to establish a contact with any of them except the Ettahadi Movement, whose stance was expressed by one of its members, Undersecretary Ould Hamou.

[Begin Ould Hamou recording] This directive about democratic expression implies that statements over the previous years were not true, they were not democratic. Today, there is a new expression that allows scope for democracy, i.e. the previous presidential statements were not even effective.

In full frankness and brotherhood, what is the democratic statement or democratic expression today in a country? Let me give you examples of this dozens of factories were set on fire, there are more than 420 schools that were burned and destroyed, there are over gas stations that were burned in Algiers region here and more than 300 APC [municipal people's assemblies] centers burned.

What kind of democratic expression and what kind of urgent solutions for the disclosure and dialogue is this in a situation where the country is on the verge of destruction, the people are dying, and families are crying of great pain? This is surprising. We can today that if there is a primary right for every Algerian, it is the right to live, the right of the country's search. Then, today the first enemy for Algerians is terrorism, it is fundamentalism. Therefore, if we add to this principal problem, we would give potential to (?enlighten) democracy, potential to the possibility of democratic expression. If the democratic expression was only based on presidential or administrative directives, it would be completely ineffective. I think this is our basic conviction. [end recording]

Renewal Party Leader on Dialogue

LD2709111494 Algiers *ENTV* Television Network in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Interview with leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal Noureddine Boukrouh by Noureddine Alamir in Algiers from the "Meeting With the Parties" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Alamir] Ladies and gentlemen, welcome. A new round of national dialogue started a few days ago between the different political formations and the regime. The number of political formations is now five, and there is hope that it will be enlarged to include other parties absent parties because they withdrew from the dialogue—the FFS [Socialist Forces Front], the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy] and Ettahadi—and other parties like the Islamist Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], which has not until now taken part in all phases of the dialogue.

The political authority in the country, at the top of which is the head of state, has not excluded the FIS from the dialogue. It has been invited to accept the invitation to the dialogue with a view to the final normalization of political climate in Algeria. The phase of dialogue seems to have reached upon the most important points that kept on hampering the stages of the previous dialogue. Talk is continuing about contacts with FIS leaders in Medea prison and about decisions, the fate of which will be decided later. For this purpose, and in order to understand and acquaint the general public with the developing situation, a program in a new series under [word Noureddine Boukrouh, leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal. Welcome Mr Boukrouh.

[Boukrouh] You are welcome too. Thank you.

[Alamir] The first questions the dialogue started in its new stages a few days ago. What are the initial observations about this new phase of dialogue?

[Boukrouh] In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful. We have previously said that the dialogue seems to be serious. This round of dialogue is different from the attempts that preceded it whereby there was a pressure—will to find a collaboration with all those concerned with the Algerian crisis, find solutions so that the country may return to stability, and that the sovereignty decision returns to the Algerian people. [passage omitted]

Up to now the dialogue has been structured around three concerns, three points. First, the situation in the country and the phenomenon of violence. The security situation which the country is experiencing means that we cannot formulate solutions without an improvement in this situation and without a return of stability to the country. [passage omitted]

[Alamir] The Party of Algerian Renewal participated in the dialogue in the first stages, then it withdrew and did not attend the national consensus conference. Now it has returned to the dialogue. What is new that has led the party to enter into the dialogue this time?

[Boukrouh] [passage omitted] We did not participate in any of the preparations of the platform for the transitional period, but we decided to go to the national conference and participate in it because we viewed it as an opportunity to put public opinion to officials of the country. Everyone said that what you have decided—this transitional period which you have decided on—will not succeed and will have no benefit. After we said what we had to say we withdrew from the hall.

We had another meeting with the current president, Liamine Zeroual, in March, when he was meeting the parties separately. At this meeting he stressed to us that

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he was opening up the dialogue, and that he was committed to implementing the decisions of the national conference, but that we were not committed to this decision. We saw this as paving the way for a genuine dialogue without conditions. [passage omitted]

[Alamir] There is a lot of talk these days about contacts with the FIS leaders in prison. Have these contacts been made? What could the parties that go there say to persuade the FIS leaders to join the dialogue?

[Benkrennah] One sign of the seriousness of the dialogue is that it is open to all those who are concerned with the crisis, and at the forefront of those concerned with the crisis is the FIS. Everyone is aware that the Algerian crisis is between the FIS, whose rights were taken away after its victory in the December 1991 elections, and the state authority, which made the decision at the time to cancel the elections and dissolve the FIS, and which adopted all the measures that you are aware of. [passage omitted]

Allow me to return to the issue of contacts with the FIS leaders in Blida and I said that a sign of the seriousness of the dialogue is that the head of state briefed us on contacts made by the state and the parties and the people are aware of that. Officials have made public—you are aware of this issue of many occasions. Zeroual summed up for us the content of these meetings, but the road was blocked, that is, these meetings were not met with agreement. These contacts have not brought the authorities and the FIS to an agreement on anything, because the authorities like dialogue and the FIS, on its part, demands dialogue and says we accept dialogue and then put conditions, as the authorities also set conditions. [passage omitted]

However, we or anyone else may have doubts about what has been said to this sphere and say that the information we have might have come from the authority's channel. Perhaps the parties would like to verify certain things directly and hear them from the mouths of FIS officials: the head of state said we cannot set any objections and we will make arrangements for you so that the meeting takes place. Whoever wants to meet the FIS officials is welcome to do so. He has not asked any party to mediate or to convey a message to the FIS people. He [however] he mentioned that the dialogue is open and everything is on the table, that everything is here and nothing is hidden. There are no taboos, as they say. You are welcome to talk.

[Alamir] Would these contacts be at a partisan level, or would a committee from the parties travel to Blida, or how would contacts be made with the FIS leaders?

[Benkrennah] This is everybody's responsibility. I have told you that this principle has been formed in this round of dialogue, which the head of state has brought forward, but he did not ask for anything. The parties have not committed themselves to anything, there is no decision about whether a committee is to be formed, or whether each party establishes its own contacts. There were attempts in the past. We know that there were parties which tried to contact the people in Blida, but the leaders in Blida proved refusal to meet specific figures, such as party leaders or national figures. [passage omitted]

[Alamir] Have you looked into the conditions made by the state for FIS participation in the dialogue, and the conditions made by the FIS for its participation in the dialogue?

[Benkrennah] The conditions made by the state are well known, because statements by the Presidency were released recently. They were presented by Mabrouk Mabrouk [spokesman for the head of state's office]. They [word indistinct] what is called the national constants which have been taken from the constitution. These constants were endorsed by the Algerian people when they endorsed the constitution in February 1989.

I believe that even the FIS will not control the Constitution—I mean officials. What is new about the constants—namely the republic, democracy, elections, Islam is the religion of the state, which we are acknowledged under the constitution—is the renunciation of violence, which means condemning violence or abandoning violence as a political means. This is the most basic [word indistinct] as the major condition of the state.

With regard to the FIS, we do not know, because we do not and have not had contacts with the FIS, but on the basis of what we have read in the newspapers and heard, it is evident that there are conditions. [passage omitted] However, it is important to embark on the dialogue in a realistic way. This applies to the state as well as the parties, including the FIS.

There should be realism, because there are things whereby one person cannot demand the impossible as a condition. I am saying that not in order to identify anyone or interfere in the affairs of this or that. One should think like an Algerian. One should know of the things that an Algerian cannot abandon—these are the principles in the constitutions, that is, we should avoid involving ourselves in adventures that we do not know how to get out of. Authority should be truly restored to the people. It should not be the case whereby decisions are made in different ways, we should get out of this. This is possible.

Thus, we entered this dialogue with a firm belief in it. If we were to believe that the dialogue was not sincere, we would address ourselves to public opinion and inform it, to withdraw, or inform the whole world. Until now, we have had confidence in this dialogue and in the will of the present authority. Mr Zeroual said I was not a politician and I did not practise politics, that I was originally a military person charged with a mission under special circumstances, and I did not have the desire to remain in power in the future. Let us hope that we succeed together during this transitional period, which could be shortened. It is not a matter that we should wait

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[illegible] What is your party's stance?

[Boukrouh] I am going to answer your question. What I want to say is that within this framework, our party's stance is that we have to go back to the electoral process starting with presidential elections. Why? Because we think it would lead us nowhere if we remain locked in arguing about the 1991 legislative elections, wondering whether we should go back to the first round, continue the second round, shall we organize new legislative elections or local elections, or shall we, as some demand, create a constituent assembly.

We look at what the Algerian state and even the Algerian people can afford to do now. I say the Algerian people because they should have a say in the solution. We said to President Zeroual that we would prefer presidential elections to be organized as soon as possible and that everybody should take part in them.

[Alamir] How soon—one year, 18 months, a month?

[Boukrouh] It could be one, let's say if all the parties to the dialogue reached an agreement in September or October—if it is possible. President Zeroual said that to organize these elections we need someone we can trust to organize them and make sure that there is no rigging. We said that there should be a government involving all the parties concerned with these elections and that this should be the real transitional government. It should prepare for the presidential elections, open up a dialogue and inform the people because the people would be concerned with the program of that government.

So, if presidential elections were to be organized, we would get rid of this unlawful government and there would be, for the first time in Algeria, a president of the republic who is elected by the people. This new president would introduce a transitional period, that is to say, he would form a government on the basis of the results achieved by parties who participated in the presidential elections. The new government and the president would then together prepare for the legislative elections and, of course, run the country at the same time.

We believe that within six, eight months, or a year, more or less, the process of solutions should be able to start. There is not one single solution but a series of solutions, because the crisis in Algeria is not only political, it is economic and cultural. We think that the solution starts with organizing presidential elections and forming a transitional government of the parties who have credibility. The president and the government should together prepare for legislative elections, or prepare for an extension of the [illegible] of the people want to clarify things in the constitution, or want to introduce new elements into it. The important thing is to create an atmosphere of democracy and legitimacy. Then everything would become possible and we would go forward.

[Alamir] But you are talking about solutions as if there is no violence in Algeria. There are radicals that have taken up arms and are now defending their ideas with weapons.

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[illegible] have given themselves names—there is the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] and the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], which have virtually become an armed opposition, and they have opposed themselves on the ground. What is their position and will there be contacts with them?

[Boukrouh] Yes.

[Akhtar] And will they be satisfied or fit these solutions, for example?

[Boukrouh] We are not ignoring violence. That is why I said that if a political solution is reached by September or October, the Islamic Salvation Army will have to adhere to this political solution, in other words it accepts to give up—I do not know if the word used is reject—violence or is close to whatever. Because what are the intentions of the GIA? They will leak. What will be the fate of those who took up arms? There are some of the reasons Algerian society is also asking questions, because our society has suffered from this violence, and thousands of families have been affected by it. There are problems but they should not prevent us from seeking a solution. The solution should be political. Such a solution is not up to one, but politically the FIS groups should assume their responsibility in the same way the parties and the authorities are now assuming their responsibility. In other words, the FIS groups should adhere to the conditions put before the nation. There are the constants of the nation and not of the authorities or any given party, because they emanate from the Constitution.

As regards country, [illegible] in the world will accept to negotiate under pressure of violence. This should not happen because this violence is not a solution even to the FIS. What good is violence going to do them? This violence is not destroying the country, it has not affected the authorities, it has not affected the authorities' own persons, it has affected the people. It has hit schools, intellectuals, correspondents—in other words innocent people. What has a policeman or a gendarme done, and what is their responsibility with regard to the suppression of the electoral process? This violence cannot achieve anything.

Let us imagine for a moment—it can be science fiction—that with this violence these armed groups manage to take power. What will happen is that those who reject this violence will replace them and go to the mountains. The former will wear official clothes and the latter will take off their official clothes and head for the mountains. Where do you think those in the Army, the police, the gendarmerie, and the democrats in Algeria, and all those who believe in the republic will go? They will also resort to violence. Therefore, violence will lead us nowhere.

We have also seen it come from the authorities in Algeria. The authorities used to believe that repression and force would enable them to stay in power, but the last three years have shown that what was called for 28 years is no longer possible. The people will no longer accept the rule of force. This is a lesson for history—maybe not just for our generation but for posterity. Nations are not established by force. Therefore, this is an response for the FIS and for the militarists, the same is true throughout the world. No violence must reign in both sides. There are technical measures, there are procedures, because it is a theory issue. There are disagreements.

You have mentioned the GIA and the AIS—everybody knows them and reads about them. This is the responsibility of the FIS. The dialogue or whatever cannot settle differences between them. They should get all their members together and those belonging to this tendency will have to overcome their contradictions.

How can the FIS take part in political life again? It must give up violence as a political means. It can do this immediately, in the same words, as the head of state has said. If the FIS demonstrates its willingness, it can take part in the dialogue the following day. We asked and suggested other things and we said that maybe this face to face.

[Akhtar interrupting] What are the things you suggested?

[Boukrouh] There are things I would not rather talk about, but they are technical details. I told the authorities: Your proposal might not help you reach a solution. You are expecting the other side to say something and the other side is waiting for you to say something else. In the meantime we are not making any progress. There are other things, and this is the function of the dialogue. In other words, everyone has to suggest something. We are seeking solutions which would enable us, [pauses] We are not suggesting handing over power to the FIS, and we in this dialogue are not giving up to violence, as some are saying. Not at all. We are nationals who are concerned with this crisis and anyone of us can die, just like thousands have died so far, and no one life is dearer than any other. We are all Algerians, we are all the same. We feel that we cannot put up with any more and we must find a solution. This solution cannot be concerned with only half or a quarter of the Algerian people. Everybody must be concerned and every Algerian here on this land, irrespective of whatever, has the right to live, decide, and so on.

[Akhtar] Will the dialogue really be a solution to the current situation, or do you expect more serious developments than what is happening now?

[Boukrouh] If this dialogue does not reach final solutions—[pauses] We know that these final solutions need time and we cannot expect everything to be resolved by 1 September, but there are principles. We must agree on the principles and the general direction that will allow us to say we are heading toward a solution. If this dialogue does not fail, I can tell you that, hopefully, one can believe everything is possible. It is also possible that we may see the situation worsen and violence become more generalized. People should not say the authorities, [pauses] There are other things in Algeria. For example, look at

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the National People's Army. The Army will exist as long as the Algerian entity exists. Every nation has an army and this army must always remain effective. The national function of the army and its powers are stipulated in any constitution and in any republic, this we have achieved. However, we should not ask for the impossible. One cannot say: In order to build my project, I must demolish everything, or: In order to establish a certain type of state I must eliminate everybody. This is illogical. We have institutions and there is no discussion on the legitimate institutions which remain.

Therefore, we believe that this dialogue must take place. The people who yesterday said that the policy of the empty seat is not good must be true to their word. I do not understand why some people are setting conditions and I do not understand their fears either. The dialogue is now open, everyone will know what is happening, and everyone will be reproved. You cannot say one thing inside the conference rooms and something else outside.

You have given me this opportunity to appear on television. I have come knowing that you have been in touch with other parties. These days, it is television that gets in touch with the parties and gives them the opportunity to talk. As far as we are concerned, we have nothing to hide. Every time you decide so, we will come and we will talk and say exactly what is happening. This dialogue must succeed. God willing, otherwise the entire nation will disappear. Nobody can rely on violence and nobody can say that they are coming to kill people, because if that were the case, another one would say: Since you are coming to kill me, I am going to kill you first. People should give up this logic, this logic of violence. [passage omitted]

[Alamir] Following the participation of the Party for Algerian Renewal in the dialogue, do the parties that did not submit their objective justifications for their absence? Do they have a stance on the plan for the type of society we want to build?

[Boukrouh] I cannot judge the stances of other parties, but all the parties must participate. This is what we hope, but we cannot impose it on them. However, as citizens we have read in the press of some stances that say that as long as you have no power over the issue of the plan for society, you should not take part in the dialogue. It is well known that the issue of the plan for society is an issue of the people and their interests.

In order for peace to return, every party must restore legitimate political life by presenting its programs, in which it says whatever it likes and lets the people decide. This means that the people must live up to this responsibility this time. The 5 million people who did not vote in 1991 should not weep and ask why we and we had a majority. This time every Algerian must go and vote and defend his right in the elections. So, as we said, everything goes back to the people and it is they who will decide. [passage omitted]

[Alamir] Now that you have mentioned the media, how do you see their role in this dialogue? Can they participate in making the dialogue a success or a failure? What is your opinion?

[Boukrouh] In our country we have two media sectors—the public sector and the private sector. The private sector is what we call the independent press, which has a specific number of newspapers. The other sector is the state-owned media, such as television, radio, and news agencies. These must play a major role. What is their role? It is to communicate the truth, what is being said, what is being done, and so on, so that from the conference hall it reaches the people. They should give all the people the opportunity to come and talk and bring people together. It is your initiative, your task as professionals, to see how you can bring the truth of things to everyone, so that they can present their ideas, and so that the people can pose questions through you.

But what we see as the negative role of some newspapers that call themselves independents is that they see Algeria in the following way: They draw a line down the middle and say that all those who believe as what they believe in and are like them are democrats, while everyone who does not speak their language is not republican and is undemocratic. Look at their headlines. They say that democrats are absent from the dialogue. So what are we, are we Nazis? What are we? What is democracy? It is the people. You should create an atmosphere of peace and organize elections for the people—this is republicanism. [passage omitted]

[Alamir] Mr. Boukrouh. This is probably going to be the last question. Does the Party of Algerian Renewal intend to get in touch with the FIS leaders?

[Boukrouh] The question is open to all. The head of state said that the president exists, so you cannot say that I prevented you in my capacity as head of state. He said: I am afraid if you want to, but the problem is now between you and the others. Whether you wish to meet them or whether they wish to meet you, too. As I said earlier, some party officials and prominent figures asked to meet the FIS leaders in Blida prison, but the latter refused. Now, as a party, we are discussing this issue and we do not object to contacts with the FIS. We are modern. Our contribution is known to all. We want to contribute with analyses, ideas, a platform, spirit, and a commitment to all the values of this nation and to realism in particular. In this respect, we are prepared if our initiative could be beneficial to any side, and if it could benefit the dialogue. As I said, we have nothing.

[Alamir, interrupting] The major thing is Algeria's preservation, is it not?

[Boukrouh] This is all.

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Attempts To Involve FIS in Dialogue Viewed

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Concerning the Ethiopian-Eritrean crisis, President Mubarak said an agreement between the two sides to resolve border disputes and to begin peaceful relations between the two countries started long ago.

Answering a question, the president expressed his confidence that differences over Jerusalem may not rise to a dispute between Jordan and the Palestinians, instead of with Israel.

He said Jerusalem must be discussed in the final stage of negotiations, in accordance with the agreements among the concerned parties.

President Mubarak said he will express sympathy to the Israelis for the organizations by the end of 1994 or even within the next month or two. He underlined the importance of the talks on the difficult problems surrounding the Israelis withdrawal from the Golan Heights to ensure its security and the difficulty in persuading the Syrians to normalize relations with Israel after years of hostility and war. He declared that Israel does not want to annex any part of the Golan.

The Egyptian president declared it as very clear cut a possible alliance between Israel and Lebanon, stating that the Lebanese situation is linked with the Syrian-Israeli negotiations. He stressed his rejection of any Israeli attack against any of the Arab countries under any pretext.

Asked about U.S. backing of Israel's nuclear weapons, President Mubarak remarked that the Americans regard Israel's attack Egypt and enough talks were about it. He said on claiming that an Egyptian plane crossed Israeli air space.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt has not changed its commitment of Nasserite nationalist although Nasser is of course Egyptian and serving their prospects.

He said Sudan's handling over the terrorist Carlos is not sufficient, because Sudan with him terrorist training camps.

He stated that Carlos also harbors terrorists and Gulf Afghans Arabs who helped the mujahidin in Afghanistan.

Commenting on Egypt's relations with Iran, President Mubarak said no drastic bilateral ties will be good, just like Egypt's relations with other countries.

He added that relations with Iran are quite right now.

President Mubarak called on Iran not to threaten its neighbors, but to establish cooperative and good neighborly ties with them.

At the end of the interview President Mubarak declared that his government will firmly confront all those who threaten Egyptian security, stating that terrorism will fail.

Asked about the status of the Muslim Brotherhood, he said it is a banned group that cannot operate legally. He explained that the religious groups are vast and the ones and cooperate with each other despite the various names they use.

Regarding the controversy over whether the electoral system should rely on individual candidates or blocs of candidates, President Mubarak declared that he will show no bias to either system. He said that all he wants is the best method of representing the people in parliament.

Population Minister Makram Discusses ICPD

[Cairo AL-AHRAM in English 27 Aug 94 p 3]

[Report on interview with Minister of Population and Family Affairs Maher Makram by Mohammad Abd-al-Qodous; place and date not given]

[Text] Can all the challenges I approached the conference from the aspect of religious settlements. I said, I am your Islamic consciousness—which believes in God—come to terms with this conference, which is attempting to destroy the family values?

The minister answered my question calmly. This conference is not dedicated to family formation or planning. It addresses the issue of population from a new and unconventional point of view based primarily on development. This is why the title of this conference is the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). It is organized by the United Nations and its objective is to put an end to poverty and unemployment. These are the catastrophes the basic cause of which is the continuous increase in population numbers.

The minister continued: Our objective is honorable. It is to put an end to misery and torment. We want the human being of a country to be a source of power and a positive addition to other members. We do not want him to be a mere living organism working to get his daily bread.

The minister's answer struck me as an attempt to dodge my original question. So I asked the question once again in another way, a more frank way, and I said: Mr. Minister, the Islamic Research Center at its recent meeting asked that the ICPD agenda be cleansed of any issues that violate Islam. What have you done to meet this demand?

He answered saying: I did not do anything. These are basic proposals from the various countries. I cannot cancel their opinions. I also would not allow anyone to impose their opinions on us. These recommendations were formulated one after the other. During the meetings of the ICPD preparatory committee in New York in April, we expressed our reservations over all the issues that violate the Islamic shari'ah. But Egypt has only one vote. I cannot impose or overpower on other parties.

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I saw in the minister's answer a gap that I wanted to exploit to score points for the religious people and those opposing the conference. I told Dr. Mahrez Mahrez: It is great that Egypt expresses its reservations. But I do not see a trace of this reservation in the recommendations of the conference. Why?

The minister answered: During the preparatory discussions, our reservations about all that violates our traditions and the teachings of our religion were farse.

Until here, I certainly, Egypt was not the only country that expressed reservations on some of the proposals. Many other Islamic and other countries must have also done so. Why did these countries not cooperate or apply any pressure so that the ICPD working paper would become more balanced?

He answered saying: This is what actually happened. Egypt took action within the group of 77, which consists mostly of developing countries. Each country expressed its opposition with total freedom. These countries will be represented by Algeria whose delegate will address the opening session of the conference.

I told the population minister: All these objections had absolutely no value. The agenda of the ICPD was drafted according to the desires of the big powers.

He answered saying: That is not true. Each country has one vote only, regardless of how big or small it is. The recommendations are more or less proposals presented by the specialized scientific and technical committees of the United Nations which are approved by all countries in the world. These proposals will be put before the politicians to choose whichever they believe are the most appropriate for each country. They will not be imposed or anything.

I disagreed with the population minister over this point. The proposals are not agreed upon by all the world's countries. They were passed from the European and American way of thinking. This is obvious in the draft working paper of the conference. I there moved on to discuss another point with the minister.

The discussion took a sensitive turn when we broached the subject of weakness and homosexuals. I felt embarrassed discussing this subject. But this is the way of the world. Things have deteriorated to the extent that homosexuals are allowed to express themselves in an international conference organized by the United Nations and convening in Egypt, the land of Azahreen and Islam.

I told the minister: The most upsetting issue is that of homosexuals. What does the conference have to do with them?

He answered: I will answer this question by providing three specific points. I would like you to write them down clearly so that we can close the door on such allegations once and for all. The draft working paper of the conference does not contain a single word that encourages homosexuality, which goes against the nature of mankind. It believes that this issue is a phenomenon requiring study and attention.

2. No homosexual will be allowed into Egypt in his capacity as a homosexual. This does about a demonstration by the homosexuals to defend their beliefs inside Egypt is ludicrous and absurd.

3. There are 20,000 organizations participating in the conference, none of which defend homosexuality.

I noticed that the minister's discussion of the point extracted some things he had said earlier such as in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine and others. I hope that the opinion he has expressed here is his final word on this matter, so that we can quote him on it.

I told Dr. Mahrez Mahrez: Let us assume that one of the delegates stood up during the conference and defended the rights of homosexuals in Egypt. What would you do?

He answered: We will respond immediately using the stipulations of our religion. For your information, the al-Azhar and the Mufti's Office will participate in the conference, which is positive. I want the whole world to hear Islamic Egypt's voice.

I was not very happy with this. I told the minister: It is regrettable that recommendations opposing the teachings of religion will be issued by this conference, as is expected, and that the conference is sponsored by Islamic Egypt.

He answered: The United Nations is the one that is sponsoring it, not Egypt.

I said: But the recommendations will be issued from the heart of Egypt. This is something the enemies of Islam will report about and violate countries will wonder what would happen.

He answered: There will be disagreement when they realize that Egypt is the first country to object to things that go against the teachings of its religion and morality. However, the recommendations that violate the teachings of Islam are not higher than a mere one percent of the total recommendations. The al-Azhar did not object to the working paper of the conference. It only objected to those points that it believes go against the teachings of religion. I agree with the al-Azhar on this point. I objected to these points during the preparatory discussions before the al-Azhar did.

I told the minister: The percentage of recommendations that contradict the teachings of religion is not important. One percent is enough to eliminate the remaining 99 percent and the whole conference for that matter.

He answered by saying: I believe you are exaggerating things. How can one percent cancel the rest of the recommendations over which there is no dispute? This is a great conference the objective of which is comprehensive development and progress for the underdeveloped

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and developing countries. But unfortunately, some parties look at it from a very narrow perspective.

I was surprised by the minister telling me: Some of those who are opposing the conference are attempting to ride the Vatican's bandwagon, which is a third-class carriage. We have a grand and very fast wagon now, the Islamic wagon.

The minister explained what he meant after I indicated that I did not understand. He said: One of the major sides opposing the conference is the Vatican, with all due respect to the Vatican. The recent demonstration in the Philippines against the conference was orchestrated by the Vatican. Why are those calling for Islam joining such people, while our religion allows dialogue and argues even with the infidel?

I answered his question. Because some of the recommendations proposed in the conference violate all religions. It is not surprising that both Muslims and Christians are objecting to it.

My dialogue with Minister Mahran touched on the cost of the conference and he told me that the United Nations will foot the bill. I asked why Egypt paid $3 million to transfer the conference from its headquarters in Geneva to Cairo and why it organized an extra $7 million pavilion for the conference. He said: This sum had already been allocated by the government to stimulate tourism and attract international conferences. I only asked the government to increase the sum.

I saw a clear contradiction in the minister's remarks, for why would Egypt spend millions on a conference sponsored by the United Nations?

The minister said that this is relative. What Egypt will pay will be little compared to the huge benefits it will reap. All hotels are booked and there will be representatives of 190 countries in Egypt. Egypt will be the talk of the whole world. The gathering will greatly boost tourism and we will make enormous profit.

I was not convinced of this logic and recalled our great scholar Helmi Murad's question: Shall we sell our religion for a few dollars? However, I put the minister's remarks on record, although I was surprised that Egypt would pay millions that could be used for the staples of its people, although the United Nations will pick up the costs of the conference.

Again I found myself in a heated discussion with Minister Mahran over birth control, which is one of the basic issues on the conference's agenda. I said: Population growth is essentially good and not bad.

The minister was surprised to hear that and so I explained what I meant. I said that population growth is good when a government exploits every inch of its land, but is bad when the government is not working and blames its declining economy on population growth. It uses this as a pretext for its mistakes. I said that this government is trying to blame its economic failure on its population growth, saying that this is the cause of all evils. What I abhorred most in Dr. Mahran is his complete composure and strict nerves.

The minister calmly said: Don't try to make me talk about domestic policy. My concern is national and not a narrow-minded party one. What you say is completely wrong. Construction and increasing production necessarily require birth control in the country, otherwise all our efforts will be to no avail. Our backwardness in the countryside is, especially, due to population growth. Ditches and water wheels are necessary for the people to cultivate their land, otherwise they will be without jobs. These tools are primitive and have been used since the days of the Pharaohs. Our government is criticized for failing to introduce agricultural machinery on a large scale because this would increase unemployment rates in the countryside. The same applies to workers in other fields. Modern technology necessarily requires family planning because it can do without manpower. Population growth is not the excuse we use for our declining economy, it is indeed a real reason for our economic decline.

I did not give in to this logic and objectively responded: First, one may see that unemployment is high among university graduates. Why? Because there is no planning so the population growth is not the reason. Second, if we established comprehensive Arab and Islamic unity, which certain people consider to be a myth, there would be no urgent need for population control because there would be economic prosperity and job opportunities. I don't think that a united Europe needs population control, nor does the United States, which consists of 52 states.

The minister said: What you say is only partly true. There is family planning at the highest level in Europe and the United States. Former U.S. President Nixon warned of a population explosion in the United States and asked that every family have two children to avoid serious problems that might harm the U.S. economy. However, he shelved his plan in the face of strong opposition against it. As for comprehensive Arab unity, it is a sweet dream but is it achievable given our current situation? I wish unity, even partial, would be achieved. The funds of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, Egypt's manpower, and Sudan's extensive land area would be enough to achieve our goals. For your information, the ICPD will discuss immigrants' rights, which is an issue that concerns many Egyptians. They have encountered numerous problems in the Arab countries. I do not want to open this wound because I am concerned about relations with our Arab brothers.

Our discussions again moved to the proposals placed on the ICPD agenda, proposals that contravene our religion. I asked Minister Mahran: Why didn't you consult with the al-Azhar before getting embroiled or agreeing to convene the conference in Egypt?

Minister Mahran said: Because it is a conference dealing with development and population and not a religious

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[illegible] Qatar, we have not been contacted. We have sought to convince it to [illegible] and there was stiff competition between us and other countries.

[illegible] believe you were surprised with these proposals that contradict the teachings of our religion?"

Minister Mukhtar stressed: I was not surprised by anything. We participated in the preliminary meetings and we voiced our reservations.

I said: How can Egypt agree to a conference convening on its territory that endorses equality between males and females regarding inheritance?

Minister Mukhtar responded: All that you have said right from the beginning revolves around one point, which as I said, represents 1 percent of the documents. This is basically a conference on development and its purpose is not religious affairs. The talk about equal shares of inheritance for males and females is from one point of view rejected. I have defended the inheritance law as detailed by Islam everywhere from the United States to Japan. I said that I object to most serious misunderstanding, so what is the problem?"

I said: The problem lies in discussing this subject in "Islamic" Egypt.

Minister Mukhtar said: This is an international conference sponsored by the United Nations. Egypt's role is to [illegible] to convey it and to voice its reservations in clear. We will not give up our beliefs to satisfy others.

I continued the interview but I have reservations about it. I based on my opinion. The discussions moved on to another topic. I asked: What about the sexual culture that they want us to teach to schools?

Minister Mukhtar said: I reject again the goals of the conference are comprehensive and much greater than sex and other opportunistic slogans. I am really surprised by those who link teaching sexual culture because they consider it shameless. Prophet Muhammad, may God have peace on him, set an example for us. We answered many private questions on this issue. We learned from him that there is nothing to be shy of in religion.

I said: What you say is true, but this should not reach the point of teaching sex education in schools. It [illegible] relationship between man and woman is based on instinct.

Minister Mukhtar said: Ignorance leads to many problems. I am a specialist in this area and previously worked as a gynecologist.

I asked: But this issue involves numerous proposed recommendations that have been rejected, such as permitting abortion and lifting parents' custodianship of their sons and daughters. Would you agree to lift your custodianship of your sons?

The minister said: Certainly not. This is a U.S. and European problem that does not concern us. A boy there leaves his family home at 16 and so does a girl, generally. This results in many problems that the ICPD will discuss. This is why restrictive proposals and recommendations at this right union to clash with our religion, but in fact concern others. We reject all solutions that contravene the teachings of Islam, which is a religion for all mankind. We will distribute leaflets at the conference to project the bright image of Islam.

My last question relates to a front-page headline in a part of AL-HAYAH edition written by Amir Abd-al-Munim, one of the most prominent Egyptian journalists, who revealed the [illegible] of the ICPD and its conclusions with our region. Egypt has committed itself to halting population growth. President Mubarak last May signed a document to this effect prepared by the UN Population Fund. What is your comment?

The man has said: I have no comment. Yes, this happened and numerous countries did the same. I can see nothing wrong in that because this has been our policy from the beginning.

I said: In this case, the matter is different. Family planning might be mandatory or at least [illegible] may use positive or negative incentives.

The minister said: Rest assured, this will not happen. We will embark on family planning on an Islamic way and in line with our shari'ah and religion. We will not follow the PRC's example which favors anyone who does not comply. We have succeeded, thank God, in family planning through persuasion and without coercion. Some 50 percent of Egyptian women currently use family planning means on volunteer agreement with their husbands. The use of negative incentives, such as depriving citizens of their rights, are rejected. I do not approve of granting privileges to a certain individual for succeeding to hold control except in a small village [illegible] a village or a country because it saves the government a great deal. [illegible] me. There will be no compulsion or coercion in family planning and it is totally voluntary.

I found a point of agreement with Minister Mukhtar, partial agreement, on leaving the issue to the people's voluntary choice. I have strong objections to the millions of pounds spent on family planning in Egypt.

Hundreds Arrested To Thwart Attacks During ICPD

NC2309190994 Paris AFP in English 0827 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept 2 (AFP)—Egyptian police have arrested hundreds of people as part of efforts to prevent threatened Moslem militant attacks at the UN World Population Conference (International Conference on Population and Development—ICPD), police said Friday.

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Police told AFP that the wave of arrests began on August 25 in the before Muslim militants shot dead a 13-year-old Spanish tourist and two policemen in separate attacks in southern Egypt.

A suspected militant also dead two guards at a church in southern Egypt last Thursday.

Police quoted in the opposition newspaper Al-Ahali said that 40 "suspected activists and [illegible] members had been arrested in the past week.

[illegible] have deployed 4,000 policemen to protect the 7,000 to 10,000 delegates expected at the week-long conference opening on Monday 12 September. Protests are under way [illegible].

The conference is one of an American Islamic Congress [illegible] planned organizations for holding the Islamic forces and invited delegates not to attend the conference.

[illegible] and countries Muslims have denounced the conference as condoning abortion, homosexuality and [illegible].

Mubarak Agrees To Halt Anti-Sudan Media Campaigns

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Cairo, 7 Sept (MEN)--During a telephone call between President Hosni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Mubarak has responded positively to what Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has proposed regarding a halt to the media campaigns between Egypt and Sudan.

Mediation With Sudan's 'Actual Ruler' Welcomed

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Chief Editor] Said [illegible] "The Correct Way To Mediate Between Cairo and Khartoum"]

[illegible] lifted the scurrilous and hostile anti-Egyptian barrage coming from the ruling regime in Sudan, when circles are speaking of high-level contacts underway for mediation between the two nearby countries. Reports indicate that efforts are being made to arrange a summit between President Mubarak and Lieutenant General al-Bashir, the pseudo-ruler of Sudan, to clear the atmosphere between the two nearby countries. It is necessary here to emphasize that there is absolutely no problem between the two fraternal countries and peoples. The only problem is the foolish and irresponsible conduct of the al-Turabi group, which rules Sudan with an iron fist.

There is no justification for these obscenities which do not befit people who claim to be Muslims, other than being a desperate attempt to create antagonism further with Egypt. The country where the Sudanese and their interests [illegible] about [illegible] throughout history. It is also clear to everybody that the real goal behind this campaign is the policy [illegible] implemented by the Sudanese people under the al-Turabi regime.

Out of its pure Arab responsibilities and as the oldest country that endorses peaceful means to reach to the Arab and Muslim nations, Egypt does not object to this mediation which reflects a mature stance and genuine [illegible]. However, it is necessary for everybody to know that Egypt has done nothing wrong to Sudan. In fact, it is the one that is the target of aggression and [illegible] from the Sudanese regime. On the other hand, we consider Cairo's position of holding a summit with [illegible] and [illegible] has the authority and the power to take any action to ensure necessary to Egyptian-Sudanese relations. I personally doubt that spontaneously news of facts and signs indicate that the government figure in Sudan and the one who controls the country's [illegible] has to do his own personal purposes or al-Turabi and his clique. He alone holds the powers and the authority, while al-Bashir is helpless. If this is the case then with should intelligence efforts we make for their efforts and pressure the head and wants their time? I urge them to make a stand to put an end to Egyptian-Sudanese relations, attempted to Sudan's actual ruler, namely Dr. Muhammad Hasan al-Turabi, who continues all the wave from behind the scenes. Let the intelligence apply the al-Turabi group that all their actions and [illegible] to threaten Egypt. Egypt is well aware of the position. Let the newspapers not assume that Egypt does not lack the means to [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible]. Its patience has limits.

It was welcome any invitation to return Sudan [illegible] to the right path. But to call on [illegible] to [illegible] words. "But if the matter inclines toward peace, let [illegible] incline towards peace and [illegible]."

Papers Criticize Israel's Position on Lifeagaz

[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Cairo [illegible] AL-AHRAM newspaper Israel's response to [illegible] the [illegible] struggle, giving the Jews the greater part and the Palestinians the smaller one.

In its editorial today, the paper says that the Israeli act is a deliberate aggression on the rights of Muslims. It gives Israeli extremists a chance to threaten Islamic sanctities and obstruct Muslim prayers in the mosque. It also makes it possible for these extremists to repeat the massacre that shocked every conscientious man in the world.

The Israeli measures, adds the paper, makes the credibility of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent announcements that the rest of the West Bank will gradually return to Palestinian sovereignty.

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Al-AKHBAR also condemns Kuala's position on the visit that Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was to pay to Tel Aviv Sept. This position, it says, goes against all internationally accepted diplomatic norms and traditions and is a flagrant violation of the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The paper says that while Egypt continues its efforts to ensure the continuation of the Middle East peace process, Israel's cold practices demonstrate the Palestinian people's [illegible] their territory, or at least part of it.

For its part, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that Egypt's understanding of peace and its diplomatic strategy to achieve and protect it are noticeable.

In this respect, the paper notes Foreign Minister Amr Musa's statement in Tel Aviv to stop Israel's violations of Islamic sanctities and to sanctions of the al-Aqsa and al-Ibrahimi mosques.

The paper says in its editorial today that the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and the West Bank should remain safe and removed from any conflicts or ambitions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that a change in the constitutional status of these holy places cannot be allowed. The paper warns that the Israelis are still rearranging details of occupation and domination and will not embrace the principles of peace and coexistence with the other states of the region. The Israeli talk replaces the paper, still adheres to the principle of [illegible] reaction whether through reaching a separate agreement on a specific negotiating track or through feeling content with a certain stage. Thus, the paper says, might serve merely as a temptation with dangers underneath that may suddenly erupt to destroy all that has been achieved.

'Muslim Militants' Kills 2 Guards at Church

[illegible] Cairo AFP in English 0751 GMT
7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 7 (AFP)—A Muslim militant shot dead two guards at a church in southern Egypt, police said Friday.

The two gunmen killed the guards late Thursday in the town of Qift, about 650 kilometers (400 miles) south of Cairo and near where militants killed a Spanish tourist last Friday (26 August), police said.

Police identified the dead as policeman Yasser Abu-Shanab Mohammad and Mohammad Zavdan Mushammad, a civilian guarding the church in the province of Qena.

Last Friday, Muslim militants ambushed a tourist bus travelling through the province with 17 Spanish tourists, killing a 17-year-old Spanish boy and wounding four others, including two parents.

A policeman guarding a police housing unit was also shot dead on Friday in the same area.

The outlawed militant al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah has vowed to continue the murder of foreigners and warned foreigners to stay away from the UN World Population Conference in Egypt's capital.

The warning came after a lull of several months following widespread arrests.

The conference, which is being held here from September 5 to 13, will be attended by 20,000 delegates from more than 150 countries, including several heads of state or governments.

The militants launched their campaign in March 1992, attacking policemen, government officials, tourists and the country's Coptic Christian minority. More than 400 people have died.

Saudi Passenger Arrested for Possessing Ammunition

[illegible] Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT
7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Security men at Cairo airport today arrested a passenger on the Saudi plane heading for Riyadh for possession of ammunition and an electric detonator.

Security men suspected a bag carried by Saudi passenger Nabeel Qasim Ahmad al-Zawawi after it went through the metal detector. When they opened the bag, they found inside 12 magazines of a machine-gun, a rifle and a pistol, three iron sticks, an electric detonator, two iron-gun silencers, and a machine-gun cooling jacket. Legal action has been taken against the passenger who is being questioned.

Rival 'Terrorist' Groups Reportedly Clash

[illegible] Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Aug 94
pp 1, 4

["Exclusive" report by Khalid Salah and Abd-al-Fattah Abd-al-Mun'im from Geneva and Cairo]

[Text] AL-AHRAM has obtained important information concerning the arrival in Switzerland of a dissident terrorist group aiming to liquidate three terrorists, including Usamah al-Zawahiri. Al-Zawahiri has shaved off his beard, donned his slacks and jersey shirt, and has changed residence four times in a Geneva suburb.

One member of the said group, having carried out surveillance of the extremist al-Zawahiri, shot him in the left shoulder as he was driving his small Ford, but the wounded al-Zawahiri managed to speed away and return home, where he was given first aid by a young physician who lives with him. Al-Zawahiri's wound, however, was serious and he is now receiving treatment in Russia [illegible] a certain clinic.

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It is known that al-Zawahiri has been sentenced to death in Egypt. It is not yet clear whether Egyptian authorities will ask for his extradition. Several European countries, including the United Kingdom, have recently extradited right terrorists to Egypt.

In a related development, security sources have uncovered the involvement of three Saudis in financing terrorist groups in Egypt. Several bank transfers to terrorist figures abroad, including Talat Fu'ad Qasim and Ayman al-Zawahiri, were detected. A total of $230,000 was transferred to them through a Swiss bank in early August.

Security services began monitoring the activities of the Saudis after an Egyptian citizen complained that one of them had voiced criticism of the Egyptian regime and absolute support for Islamic groups operating abroad. The services eventually discovered that one of the Saudis has links with Usamah bin-Ladin, a major sponsor of extremist movements. A detailed report on the findings is being prepared for eventual communication to Saudi officials.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights [EOHR] yesterday, Sunday (28 August), issued a statement denouncing the attack on a tourist bus in Nahia in members of the Islamic Group [IG]. The EOHR announced an IG statement in which the IG threatened terrorist acts against the International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held soon in Cairo.

The EOHR described the statement as a serious violation of religious freedom and the freedom of speech, saying that it paves the way for further human rights violations by the regime. The EOHR described certain elements within al-Azhar as being "a legitimate cover" for crimes recalling that the assassination of Dr. Farag Fudah occurred following a fatwa by some al-Azhar clerics in which they accused Fudah of blasphemy.

Israelis Said Not Directing Agriculture in Halaib

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—An official source at the Agriculture Ministry has described as baseless a report appearing in the morning's issue of AL-SHA'B that Israeli experts are supervising agricultural activity in Halaib [on the border with Sudan].

Libya

Algerian President Holds Talks in Tripoli

[Excerpts] It is expected that Main President Liamine Zeroual will return home from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah after attending the remaining celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution tonight. [passage omitted]

From the capital Tripoli radio reporter Ahmed Fadil sends the following report:

[Fadil] Mr. Liamine Zeroual this evening received a number of heads of delegations who came to attend the celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution at his residence in al-'Aziziyah in Tripoli. He received Mr. Chadli Neffati, secretary general of the RCD [Democratic Constitutional Rally—Tunisian ruling party], who conveyed a message to him from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He also received Niger Prime Minister Mahamadou Issoufou, who conveyed a message to him from Niger President Mahamane Ousmane. Finally he received Malian President Oumar Alpha Konare.

Regarding the activities of the ministerial delegation accompanying the state president, Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Omeish and Mr. Jum'ah al-Fazani, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, signed the minutes for the implementation of cooperation between Algeria and Libya in the light of the directives issued at the meeting of the two countries' leaders, President Liamine Zeroual and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Following a meeting between the twelve Algerian ministers and Libyan secretaries.

It was stated in these minutes that what was agreed upon has been reviewed and that both sides have shown their satisfaction with what has been implemented. They stressed that their efforts will continue to implement what has not yet been implemented at the political level and in the economic and health fields and in the use of human resources.

Regarding the demarcation of the borders, it was agreed that the technical committee charged with demarcating the border markers between the two brotherly countries should be reactivated and that the border areas should be developed. The committee should hold a meeting next October. [passage omitted]

Minutes on Talks Signed

[Excerpts] During the third day of its official visit to Libya yesterday, President Liamine Zeroual attended the ceremonies for the 25th anniversary of the Libyan revolution. [passage omitted] Earlier in the day Liamine Zeroual met the secretary-general of the RCD, the ruling party in Tunisia, the prime minister of Niger, and Mali's President Alpha Oumar Konare. During these meetings the president reaffirmed Algeria's great interest in resolving the problems facing the region by means of dialogue, consultation, and joint efforts on the part of all the states concerned, in order to find appropriate lasting solutions to restore security, stability, harmony, and solidarity in the region, and to promote development.

At the same time, our foreign minister and his Libyan counterpart signed the minutes of the talks and points of

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agreement reached by the two sides at the end of President Zeroual's official visit to Libya. We have details from our special correspondent, Nacera Chennaf.

[Chennaf] First of all, on the political level, it has been decided to set up a follow-up committee which will meet twice every year to assess the situation. On the subject of the demarcation of the border, the joint commission aiming to deal with this matter will meet next month. In the sphere of health, it is announced that [Algerian Health Minister] Kaddoum will visit Libya shortly with a view to determining the prospects for the employment of Algerian doctors in Libya. Also in the sphere of employment, a Libyan delegation will visit Algeria in October in order to determine the prospects for the employment of skilled and unskilled sectors of the Algerian workforce. Finally, on being asked about this agreement, Algerian Foreign Minister Dembri stressed that it crowns more than six months work to restore completely political normality to relations between Algeria and Libya.

Sudanese President Underlines Strength of Ties

LD0509225994 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1737 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 1 Sep—Lieutenant General Umar Hasan al-Bashir, leader of the national salvation revolution and president of the sisterly Republic of Sudan, stressed the strength of the brotherly relations that bind the children of the two Arab people in Sudan and the Great Jamahiriyah.

In an interview with AL-MIAMN newspaper published today, he said that by this participation we deliberately wanted to send a message to the outside West, to the effect that the siege on the Libyan Arab people could never isolate this people from the rest of its brothers, and emphasizing our standing and support for the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust measures. [passage omitted]

Concerning Sudanese-Egyptian relations, Lt Gen. al-Bashir said: We have taken the initiative in announcing a cessation to the media attacks, affirming that the Arab people in Egypt and Sudan were connected with numerous links, be it historical, blood, or common interests. [passage omitted]

Lt Gen. al-Bashir denied the Western countries' allegations, which they were trying to attach to Sudan. He pointed out that terrorism was an Israeli policy—the aim of which was to cause damage to the Arabs and Muslims and which was used by imperialist countries as a pretext for aggression on the countries that rejected foreign hegemony.

Lt Gen. al-Bashir stressed that the problem of southern Sudan fell within the framework of the conspiracy against the security of the Arab world's food and water with the aim of dominating this region.

He invited all the Sudanese abroad for dialogue and understanding and to return to their homeland to live in security and peace. [passage omitted]

Saudi Envoy Delivers Message to al-Qadhafi

LD0509200294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1847 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity this evening held a meeting with brother Abd-al-Wahhab Abd-al-Wasi (name as received), the special envoy of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who is currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

During the meeting the Saudi envoy delivered a message to the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity from King Fahd for the brother leader of the revolution.

Morocco

Prime Minister Chairs Government Council Meeting

LD1109171794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation chaired today, Wednesday, a meeting of the government council devoted to hearing reports from some ministers and studying a number of international agreements.

The council heard at the start a report presented by Minister of State for the Interior and Information Driss Basri about the recent incidents that targeted a hotel in Marrakech. He reviewed in this respect the various security measures adopted by the Moroccan authorities immediately after the incident to capture the perpetrators and to refer them to the court of justice. [passage omitted]

The minister pointed out that all those arrested so far will be referred to the court. The minister of state also pointed out that the national public was informed fully and at the right time of the efforts to maintain the security and tranquillity of the citizens and their possessions. [passage omitted]

Ahmed El Ouardi, the minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of the Moroccan community abroad, then spoke about the harassment of Moroccan nationals wishing to return to their place of residence. Recalled on this occasion were the various necessary measures that were adopted and intended to be taken to overcome the difficulties and to provide every means to help those nationals to return to their places of work or residence.

Arms Said Sent From Algeria To Create Conflict

LD0209140294 Rabat MAP in English 1355 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep[1] (MAP)—The 'LIBERATION' daily all approaches to trace back the origin of seized arms in

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Morocco tried to conduct in the Algerian intelligence land, the only one having the necessary means to carry out such operations and manipulations.

In a front page story titled "Bombs, War Weapons and ... Foreign Involvement" the daily of the nationalist Istiqlal Party (opposition) does not rule out that the weapons seized in Morocco were sent by a clan within the Algerian regime to create a conflict with Morocco or a 'call to' bring about a lasting mobilization of the Algerian people, while at the same time complicating the movement of Algerian Islamists in Morocco.

It appears that these goals will not be fulfilled, nor if Morocco decided to help the Algerian Islamists the visa requirement would not be an obstacle. The daily argues. The fact also draws the attention of those behind the establishment with that the Algerian-Moroccan rift will never go beyond a certain red line, for the superpowers will never allow a war in North Africa.

By deciding to lower visa regulations, Morocco means to kill all attempts by those who want to exploit the visa requirement for other purposes, L'OPINION concludes.

Sudan

Al-Turabi on Algerian Dialogue, France

[Editorial "Al-Turabi Visits Libya" in French 1,000 BCG 1035 in French 1 Sep 94 p 12]

[Report on interview with Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi by Gilles Millet in Khartoum; date not given: "Hasan al-Turabi: Paris Must Persuade Algiers To Negotiate"]

[text] Khartoum—"As the French deal with the Algerian Government, I will deal with the Islamic fundamentalists." Permanently residing in his office in Khartoum, Hasan al-Turabi—the ideologue of the Sudanese regime since the military coup d'etat in 1989 and the figurehead of the Islamic fundamentalist movement worldwide—was quite definite. He can persuade the extremist Algerian groups to sit down at the same negotiating table as the government. He confirmed that several meetings have already taken place in this connection between French emissaries himself and the Sudanese security services and argued that France pays close heed and that the talks will continue. "There is no possible path other than negotiation," he said. "The Algerian Government cannot resist forever by force, and France, which supports it, is in the same situation. The European Community, and especially France, accepted the heavy price [text illegible] democracy in Algeria where the electoral process was interrupted, and now it is up to them to persuade the Algerian Government to negotiate. There [are] sufficient means of exerting pressure."

"It can't last," he added. "Everyone needs a solution, and France is increasingly isolated in its support for the Algerian Government. The Americans and British do not follow it. Italy and Spain, which I visited recently, are increasingly in favor of a negotiated solution that will prevent a return to the democratic process. So let there be peace in Algeria. The Algerian Government will have to negotiate. Just as the Israelis eventually did with the Palestinians. Otherwise, there will be a violent revolution, which will not be confined to Algeria and which will affect the neighboring countries and spill over into the European countries."

The fact that "Dr. al-Turabi," as the Sudanese call him, is in favor of negotiations between the Algerian Government and the Islamic fundamentalists and puts himself forward as the key to the most apparently [illegible] outwards but himself for the present. The Algerian authorities—with which he has no relations (however, Algerian President Liamine Zeroual is Cairo for the second time with Sudanese chief of state General Umar al-Bashir Wednesday [7 September] in Tripoli, where they are guests of the celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's accession to power)—have not yet expressed any real desire for negotiations with the fundamentalists, and it is not clear that they want to do without any intermediaries. The French for their part, made it known recently, through Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, that they are not involved.

"It is up to your country to talk with the Algerians," he replied. "As far as the French are concerned, I can only say that they heed my suggestions favorably. Apart from that, I am bound to silence. It was not I who broke it by mentioning certain meetings in Paris or elsewhere." Indeed—as part of the negotiations between the French and Sudanese services that preceded the landing [text of Carlos—emissaries of both countries met in 1993 in Khartoum and Paris to discuss solutions to the Algerian crisis. The Sudanese, represented by the head of their foreign intelligence service, Mubarak Abd al-Fa'il, and by Fateh Arrous [name as published], head of all the security services, proposed a tripartite meeting in Paris between them, the French, and the Algerians. They also discussed a plan for the establishment in Algeria of a kind of Islamic militant junta. Through the French, who included General Rondot, who subsequently negotiated Carlos' arrest, showed interest at least in the initial plan. the Algerians did not take it up.

While refusing to discuss these meetings, Hasan al-Turabi did give to understand that the talks between Paris and Khartoum on Algeria will continue. Though Paris' pressure on the Algerian authorities to agree to negotiate have been "shelved" until the coming French elections—and he confirmed this.

"It is very difficult for any kind of dictatorship to remain in power," he said with reference to the Algerian military. "Society must evolve painlessly toward democracy, otherwise there will be resistance, violence against violence. It is a waste of energy. A defeat for Islam. Although Muslims have the right to defend themselves, it is better to advance toward Islam without violence.

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This is why the first thing is to return to the democratic process." Assuming that the Algerian Government believes this, it seems unlikely that the Sudanese leader will succeed in mobilizing "reason" in the Islamic armed groups committed to a strategy of seizing power by force. Al-Turabi disagrees. "It is true that conflicts tend to strengthen extremists," he admitted. "But I think it is still possible to talk and to persuade both sides." And to cite the empowered Islamic front leaders unceremoniously. The exiled leaders of the movement with whom he had meetings, such as Anwar Haddam Rabah Kebir in exile Kerrubim Kerrbane, whom he considers "moderate." Having been involved in the armed struggle even before the 1992 Algerian elections. Kerrbane—who was one of the officials of the Afghan networks that later created the extremist guerrillas of the Islamic armed Groups (GIA)—is now apparently closer to the FIS (Islamic Salvation Front) leadership. "I have talked with him in person," he said, "and he spoke in a reasonable fashion." So are you the GIA do not scare Mr. al- Turabi. "I can talk to them and persuade them too. If there is a reasonable demand."

The dissent of the Islamic fundamentalist forces adds to the difficulties. He admits it. "The Islamic front is not a solid and united party with genuine representation. It is a movement that comprises very different people, rather like all the Islamic movements developing throughout the world. A kind of intellectual and spiritual renaissance, full of energy."

The large number of problems posed by the establishment of a possible dialogue between the Algerian authorities and Islamic fundamentalist groups as different as they are cannot close our eyes to the consequences of the continuation of the crisis. Its dimensions abroad. "The crisis must take the place of "revolutions, which are very sanguinary." We need the cost in France of its own revolution. "before managing to establish principles of freedom, equality, and fraternity." And the cost to Iran of "its authoritarian revolution."

"I cannot predict an agreement, nor a peaceful, amicable conduct the situation," he claimed. "But a realistic one. The negotiations must be continued in order to avert a bloodbath in Algeria."

And in order to enable Sudan, and especially Hasan al-Turabi, to perform the great mediation role that he dreams of. Somewhere in spite of the real situation.

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Qatar

Mauritanian Minister Conveys Letter, Departs

[Text] Doha, 1 Sep (WAKH)—Mohamed Lemine Salem, Ould Dait, Mauritanian minister assistant and envoy of Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, left Doha this evening following a one-day visit to Qatar.

During the visit, he conveyed a letter to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, from the Mauritanian president dealing with bilateral relations and ways to enhance and promote them.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Demands Return for Ending Israel Embargo

[Editorial "In Return for What Should the Embargo on Israel Be Lifted?"]

[Text] The United States is entitled to ask the Arabs to read their heroism of Israel but it has no right to impose this on them, because it is unjustifiable with the Arabs and believes that its role includes that it should approach the Arab side has its own view which is that Israel has not honored all its peace commitments.

The Jordanians and the Palestinians even by signing the initial peace accords have not regained their rights of territorial sovereignty, self-government, water sharing and arms control. There has been no breakthrough on the Syrian front. Is [Israel] ready to withdraw from the Golan over a period of years not months, and this satisfies the Arab position that before the embargo is lifted, there should be a set of timetables and true implementation of the commitments made by Israel.

If peace has come through your efforts, and perhaps unbridled U.S. efforts, these efforts might not have succeeded had there been Arab coordination on common foundations and demands for the fulfillment of all rights. Although every Arab side has a right to make its own decisions, the results have not reached the point of comprehensive solutions that would give the Arabs full control of what was occupied from them and consequently lead them to agree to make undertakings to lift the embargo, open the borders, exchange ambassadors and accept other aspects of relations between states.

Furthermore, President Clinton may have given Israel more sophisticated aircraft and told Israel pledges that it deserves even under conditions of peace, but the Arab states have not been given the same treatment, a matter which transcends the required rules of friendship to reach the point of total partiality for Israel. And, regardless of the differences between the Arabs and the United States on certain ideas, dealing as friends is governed by major interests which are still unsure, which makes the call for an end to the embargo difficult even if it took the form of direct pressure—which we do not see the U.S. President resorting to Israel to make it accept the Arab demands with the same degree of objectivity.

There then is Israel, which should realize that the accumulating frustration cannot be contained except by making decisions to overcome rejectionist tendencies between two options whose taste is bitter to us, very bitter. Then there is the question of the occupation of territories, of accepting the settlements, and of contributing to everything harmful to the Arabs politically and socially in all heaps of the media, the mosques, and other ways even in the United States itself.

The breaking of Arab relations and economic measures because Israel did not view the Arabs as a nation, how to engage and appeal to the Arabs have the same feelings and beliefs about Israel. Israel could do two things simultaneously. It could solve all aspects of its pending problems with the neighboring states to which it is a neighbor, and lifting of the embargo. But to have to persuade someone to accept for nothing would be an affront. Doing so in the way America pressed accept without a price. This is a unique equation pertaining to complex issues that have been accumulating for decades. The question that arises is, in return for what should the embargo on Israel be lifted?

U.S. Report on Security Prompts 'Satisfaction'

[Text] London, 31 Jul/1 Aug—Al-Hayah—31 Jul/1 Aug—Al-Hayah has learned from various sources that U.S. President Bill Clinton last week sent King Fahd Bin 'Abdul-'Aziz Al Sa'ud [Saudi] Arabia an extensive report on the security situation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia prepared by the U.S. Administration after a reassessment of the situation in the Arabian Peninsula following the defeat of the Saudi-backed secession attempt in Yemen.

The "top secret" report, in 200 medium-size pages, was delivered by a security delegation consisting of Thomas McLarty, a personal friend of President Clinton and former White House chief of staff; Robert Pelletreau, Middle Eastern affairs expert at the State Department; and Martin Indyk, White House adviser on Middle Eastern affairs (slated to become U.S. ambassador to Israel).

The sources said that the report was prepared in response to an official request submitted by Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Bin Sultan to find out the extent and seriousness of the danger resulting from the claims of President Ali 'Abdallah Salih Yemen and the failure of the secession attempt.

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which Saudi Arabia believed would weaken Yemen and keep it occupied and turn its attention away from external interests for a long time.

They added that what particularly aroused the fears of Saudi Arabia, apart from the strengthening of the position of Ali Abdallah Salih and Yemen in general, was the [Yemeni] command's success in using and moving mobile mechanized and infantry forces including armored and artillery forces. Saudi fears were also aroused by the fact that the southern secessionist forces were able to successfully fire Russian Scud missiles on the capital Sanaa from a distance not much shorter than the distance between the Yemeni border and Saudi cities in the south.

The sources from whom AL-QUDS AL-ARABI obtained this information particularly noted that Prince Bandar, who asked the U.S. Administration to make the evaluation and prepare the report, was absent from Washington when the CIA, State Department, and Defense Department experts were preparing their report.

He went to Saudi Arabia when the report was completed and was there when the report was submitted to King Fahd. The sources said that the report was received with relative satisfaction in Saudi Arabia because it emphasized that the Kingdom and the royal family were not in direct danger from Yemen if certain specific tactics were followed and specific objectives adopted as advised by the authors of the report in the event of tension with Yemen.

The report's authors did not suggest that Saudi Arabia purchase arms and military equipment on a large scale because they were aware of the Saudi budget difficulties, particularly in relation to the payment of installments on U.S. military aircraft already purchased.

The sources also said that the report's authors did not talk about strengthening the Saudi Navy because that would be in the interest of France, nor did they talk about completion of al-Nafd airbase because Saudi Arabia has agreements with British Aerospace regarding that base.

AL-QUDS AL-ARABI has learned from a source well informed on Saudi affairs that the U.S. Administration is considering sending Vice President Al Gore to Riyadh to confirm Washington's support for Saudi Arabia's security. The same source said that it is unlikely that President Clinton himself will visit Saudi Arabia in the near future and that he told the Saudi Kingdom that such a visit might take place if the Arab-Israeli peace process made major progress.

On another aspect of U.S.-Saudi relations, namely means of daily communication, the sources said that the U.S. Administration will reduce its reliance on the Saudi ambassador in Washington on the most sensitive issues and will begin to contact Saudi officials directly through the new U.S. ambassador in Riyadh, who is personally close to President Clinton.

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Kurds Urged To Support 'Week of Normalization'

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brothers and sisters, IT members, supporters, and heroic peshmergas. Dear citizens.

Today, 31 August, is the second day of the week of normalization—the week of the return of security to the cities and [fighting] years, the return of the headquarters of parties and popular organizations, the return of government institutions to the cities and villages, the return of the displaced to their homes, and of emptying cities of armed men and defining positions for these men outside the cities.

Dear listeners. Yesterday was the first day of the week of normalization. What was achieved yesterday?

First, the situation yesterday was stable on all axes. Fortunately, there were no accidents worth mentioning. The peshmergas adhered to the parliament decisions. These are the most important results of the first day of the week of normalization, because cease-fire is a basic condition to achieving the steps that follow.

Second, the parliament delegations visited the axes of Halabjah, Bazyan, Qal'at Diizah, and the Rawandiz base.

Third, the higher committee for normalization met at 1000 in the presence of representatives of all parties—the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Islamic Movement, the Socialist Party, and the Iraqi National Congress. The most important results of the meeting include forming the military committees to supervise the axes and define the representatives of the parties supervising these axes.

It is noteworthy that the tasks of the military committee include an immediate deferment of positions where military forces will be stationed outside the cities and evacuating them from these cities.

Fourth, as always, the KDP media adhered to all decisions and carried out a comprehensive coverage of the implementation and maintenance of the state of normalization. We learned that other parties media organs also adhered to this.

Dear listeners. The higher committee for normalization is expected to implement the other points today, Wednesday, 31 August.

The success of the week of normalization is cause for our pride and success. It is the duty of all the parties of Kurdistan to render the program of the week of normalization a success with God's help and the support of the honorable citizens.

God willing, all of us will be loyal in implementing the program of this important week. The success of normalization is our responsibility because the continuation of disturbances and riots is detrimental to all of us. We hope that all citizens, especially officials in and members of the normalization committees, as well as members of the parliamentary delegations, will exert persistent and serious efforts to render the week of normalization a success.

Axes 'Returning to Normal' After Agreement

MIDDLE EAST 294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 7

[Report by Adnan Hussein: "Kurdish Leaderships in Northern Iraq Pledge to Withdraw Armed Militias From Cities"]

[Excerpts] London—Representatives of the Iraqi Kurdish parties involved in the inter-Kurdish armed conflict of the past three months have emphasized that the situation in the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq is beginning to return to normal after last week's agreement between Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani to end the fighting in which hundreds were killed and which resulted in massive material losses and impeded the work of the local "government" and "parliament" formed by the Kurds two years ago.

In London, representatives of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], led by Barzani, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Talabani, and the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan [IMIK], led by Shaykh 'Uthman Abdul-'Aziz, have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the armed clashes "in the Kurdish areas stopped completely" over the past two days. They added that a higher committee consisting of leading members of the three parties has begun supervision of the cease-fire and implementation of the agreement, which includes withdrawing the armed militias from the cities and allowing government and partisan departments to resume their headquarters and offices and resume their normal activities. The sources also said that working meetings are held daily by Barzani, Talabani, and a representative of the "IMIK general guide," to follow up the measures taken. According to the IMIK's representative in London, the agreement also provided for inclusion of the IMIK in the local government and parliament. He stressed that the three parties "are now discussing the appropriate way of achieving that." He said that one of the ideas proposed in this connection was that the parties of Barzani and Talabani, who share 100 seats in the local parliament (which also has five

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seats for the Assyrian minority), would each give equal numbers of their parliamentary seats to the IMIK, so that early parliamentary elections would be held. He added that the IMIK "prefers the early elections option." [passage omitted]

Some sources had estimated that about 150 people were killed in the battles of the past three months, but according to [i]ndependent Kurdish sources more than twice that number were killed. They pointed out that over 200 were killed in last week's battles. [passage omitted]

New Edition of French-Language Magazine Issued

LD0209103194 Baghdad INA in English 0827 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 2, INA—The new edition of the French-language magazine "BAGHDAD" [has been] issued by Dar al-Ma'mun for Translation and Publishing.

The new edition groups various cultural and political topics in addition to a report on the well-known artist Soham al-Sa'adi.

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Government To Open Liaison Offices With Morocco

Peres Comments

[10/09/94] [Text] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1205 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Jerusalem on 1 September—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] I traveled to Morocco last June to discuss the issue of the economic conference with the king. I had reason to believe that the king would agree then to the mutual establishment of interest offices and telephone links. I held a long discussion with him, and he said: Not yet. He also invited me to meet with his Council of Ministers, where the ministers, the prime minister, and the various advisers discussed the issue. At that council I felt that the matter is still up in the air. After the session, the king took me aside, shook my hand, and said: It will happen before October. Indeed, they immediately notified us of the establishment of the telephone and telegraph links, which was implemented a few weeks later. Some two weeks ago, the king sent an envoy to the prime minister and to me. The envoy said that they had decided to set up a liaison office, and we agreed on the date of the joint announcement, 1 September. The Moroccans asked that we not leak this.

This is a major change. So far most of the agreements were signed with neighboring countries, the aim of which really was to put out past wars. This is a first step in the direction of establishing a new region in two senses. One, there are relations with a North African country with which we have never had a war. Two, this is accompanied by an economic conference, which is also unprecedented. The conference will be attended by hundreds, perhaps thousands of international companies, including Israeli, Arab, Palestinians, U.S., European, and Japanese companies. The purpose of this conference will be to discuss the development of the Middle East as a region—not just to individual countries, but just to entire region. This is where the importance of this step lies. I also believe that additional agreements will follow this agreement.

[Raz] Why now? After all, the issue was published over the past year on more than one occasion, and you said that the king told you in June that the agreement would be signed before October. What happened now?

[Peres] He asked that we wait and keep it a secret until he decided, and that is what we did.

[Raz] Does the interest office point at a higher level of relations, full diplomatic relations between the two countries?

[Peres] There is no doubt in my mind that it will happen. Enough no such promise or commitment was made to us. Still, this is the natural thing in diplomacy. You start with one step that really opens the door, and I believe that it will be continued.

[Raz] Have you decided who will head the Israeli interest office in Rabat?

[Peres] I cannot discuss this issue before the afternoon. Therefore we have not yet started dealing with this. Today at 1300 we will begin to discuss manning the office.

[Raz] That is, Israel will have an official representative in Morocco and Morocco will have an official representative in Jerusalem, or rather in Israel?

[Peres] In Israel, yes, this is the situation.

[Raz] How will this affect other countries? Tunisia is an interesting goal, as are some Muslim countries in Asia.

[Peres] It will have some effect, but nothing is automatic. These things are not self-evident. I believe it will have an impact on other countries, and we are working in this direction.

[Raz] Did you receive some other envoys with promises of an imminent establishment of other interest offices?

[Peres] If I did not speak of this before, I see no reason for you to believe I should talk about it now. There is no reason for me to do this.

[Raz] Morocco and the king chair the Jerusalem Committee of the Arab League. Does this help or cause problems?

[Peres] It does both. At the same time, I believe the main reasons for this are, one, the agreement with the PLO; two, the agreement with Jordan; three, the aspect of regional economic development. These are the decisive reasons which defeated the other reasons.

Rabin Comments

[10/09/94] [Text] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] A short while ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a news conference in which he announced the opening of representations in Morocco and Israel. The prime minister said that Morocco will end its lifting the boycott from Israel. Our army affairs correspondent Kasriela Menashe reports from the Izbarsem Command and Staff College where the prime minister made his remarks.

[Menashe] The bringing to Israel of the bones of the passengers of the "Egoz" ship [ship which carried Moroccan Jews who tried to reach Israel in 1962 and which sank under unclear circumstances, the bones of the 22 passengers who drowned were brought to Israel from Morocco in early 1993] and the announcement about the establishment of representations in Israel and Morocco—these two events, Rabin said, were brought

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about by the change in policy of the present government which is characterized by deeds rather than words concerning the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] Two weeks ago, a secret envoy on behalf of the Moroccan king and Government came to Israel, met me, and informed me of Morocco's decision to set up an interest section in Israel and a parallel Israeli representation in Morocco, or any city we would choose, but he also mentioned that a Moroccan representation would be set up in Gaza too, alongside the Palestinian system there. A visit by a Moroccan envoy, at the same or a previous time, apparently took place in Gaza. It was apparently made clear to the Gazans, to the Palestinians, that Morocco intended to set up representations here and in Gaza. I gave him a positive answer in principle on the spot, while stressing that the Gaza representation should be an interests one, without a consular or a diplomatic status, whereas in Israel and in Morocco there are chances that the representations will assume a consular and maybe also a diplomatic nature in the future. The envoy met with the foreign minister the next day too. So matter was coordinated between me and the foreign minister, and it was decided to release the announcement today. The announcement was coordinated with the Moroccan Government and related to us, and I assume that the representations in Israel and in Morocco will be set up in the not too distant future. I believe that a representation will be set up in Gaza about the same time.

[Menahem] Mr Prime Minister, you went to Morocco—who do we not have diplomatic relations right away?

[Rabin] Look, many people asked for many things, also in the meetings which followed the signing of the Declaration of Principles in Washington. The replies we received were that things would work out in due course. Many asked, many appealed, and I am referring to government-level people as well as people of Moroccan origin in Israel who have good connections in Morocco. There was extensive activity, but we knew, also when we visited Morocco at the time, that the Moroccans would act gradually. I would like to have diplomatic relations at once, but one should be aware of the fact that patience pays off sometimes and that better results can be achieved in working things out stage by stage. [end recording]

[Menahem] In answer to a question, the prime minister said that he hopes that on 14 September, when Arab League's foreign ministers meet, it will be decided to lift the embargo from Israel. There are no signs for this at the meantime, the prime minister said.

[Ist line] IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 1 September also carries a report on Rabin's news conference. Asked whether Tunisia is next in line to Morocco, Rabin answered: "I do not know who said so. I will not say anything before I know things for sure. Many have appealed to Tunisia over the years. The point is what is actually achieved and when." Asked about Warren Christopher's visit to the region and whether his visit is connected to relations with Syria, Rabin says: "I do not know where the secretary of state will visit. I have not yet received an authoritative announcement on this. I know that the intention was for him to come in September, but I am not certain when the visit will take place." Asked whether it is known when King Hussayn will visit Israel, Rabin says he does not know. Queried about the "practical aspects of the agreement with Morocco," Rabin states that "at the moment, talk is about the establishment of a representation which will represent Israel's interests. Contacts between Israeli and Moroccan economists and intellectuals have been going on for a long time now."

Likud, Tsomet Leaders Welcome Ties

[ADDRESSEE] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The opposition Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu sent a message to Moroccan King Hassan welcoming his decision to formally establish ties between the two countries.

The right-wing Tsomet faction in the Knesset also welcomed the move. The party head, Knesset Member Rafa'el Eytan, said the agreement is in line with Tsomet's approach of peace for peace.

U.S. To Ratify Treaty Preventing Double Taxation

[ADDRESSEE] Jerusalem ITIM [JERUSALEM POST] in English 2 Sep 94 p 10

[Report by Uzi Mahnaimi]

[Text] U.S. ratification of its treaty with Israel to prevent double taxation is virtually assured, now that Israel has provided the U.S. tax authorities with the formal written assurances they required relating to the sharing of bank account information. Income Tax Commissioner Dikstein-Levi said yesterday.

According to Levi, the U.S. Senate last year conditionally ratified the treaty, pending the receipt of clarifications from Israel that would satisfy U.S. tax authorities. Once the U.S. officials give the go-ahead, the treaty will be automatically ratified.

U.S. officials were concerned that, since the Israeli tax authorities have limited information on bank accounts here, would be able to escape U.S. scrutiny.

Foreign residents with local accounts are not required to file Israeli tax returns.

Levi said the countries would share information based on the local tax authorities' practices for requesting such information from banks. In Israel, for example, the tax authorities only audit a limited number of bank accounts, and the Americans would be allowed to have the same access.

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Levi noted that the information would not be provided unless the U.S. authorities were able to justify their request for it. He made it clear that both sides had no plans to exchange computer lists of Americans that live here and Israelis living in the U.S.

Levi said the U.S. officials were also concerned about Americans depositing money in anonymous or numbered accounts. However, such accounts do not exist here, he said.

The Americans were also worried about access to accounts belonging to Americans who would deposit monies here by way of a third country. For example, should a Swiss company that is wholly-owned by an American deposit money in a bank here. In that case, Levi said, the answer is simple: it will be treated as a U.S. citizen's funds.

That, of course, will not be the case if the Americans only own a one percent share of that company. The problem, Levi explained, will be determining the origin of the money, where the case's center of control is harder to establish.

Levi discounted reports that billions of dollars kept by Americans in bank accounts here would leave the country once the U.S. tax authorities would be allowed access to bank account information.

"The treaty was signed nearly two years ago, and we have not seen during that time any major capital flight to confirm such fears," said Levi.

MK Reports on Meeting With Syrian Ambassador

[Unattributed] "An Invitation [for Syria to Explore Peace]" [JPRS-TAC-94-017] [Translation of article by Yisra'el ha-Yom] [Jerusalem] [JERUSALEM] [in English] [7 Sep 94] p 2

[Text] Knesset Member (MK) Uzi al-Wahab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party says while he was in Washington this week, he met with Syria's ambassador to the U.S. Darawshah said the Syrian ambassador stressed that Damascus regarded a comprehensive peace treaty with Israel and not a declaration of principles like was signed with the Palestinians and Jordanians.

The Syrian ambassador confirmed that in upcoming days, indirect talks between Israel, Syria, and Jordan would begin, with the U.S. serving as an intermediary.

Space Research Cooperation Memo Signed With Russia

[Unattributed] "Israel, Russia Sign Memorandum on Space Research" [JPRS-TAC-94-017] [Translation of article by Yisra'el ha-Yom] [Jerusalem] [JERUSALEM] [in English] [7 Sep 94] p 2

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] The space agencies of Israel and Russia yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in civilian and commercial uses of space, especially the development of communications satellites.

According to the memorandum, the two space agencies will be able to "consider jointly and mutually the economic potential of space industries and research in each of the countries." Prof. Uzzal Ne'eman, chairman of the Israel Space Agency and a former science minister, signed for Israel, and his counterpart was Yuri Koptev.

The Russian Space Agency is said to be the largest in the world, with half a million workers and dozens of factories. It has launched 160 satellites into space so far.

Yuri Yemec, director-general in the Russian and CIS Ministry, said at the Tel Aviv ceremony that Russia is a "space power with much experience and developed physical infrastructure. I am glad that we will be able to make use of this experience and hope it will be much scientific and economic use to benefit both our countries."

Israel Space Agency officials said Israel sees during the next decade to expand its science industries and services to an much as $2,200 million, cooperation with Russia will boost these productions.

Gen. Mordekhay on Terrorist Activity in Lebanon

[Unattributed] "Chief [of Staff] Mordekhay on Terrorist Activity in Lebanon" [JPRS-TAC-94-017] [Translation of article by Yisra'el ha-Yom] [Jerusalem] [JERUSALEM] [in English] [7 Sep 94] p 3

[Text] Hizballah is improving its methods of operation in south Lebanon, and while IDF is always ready to penetrate terror acts. These remarks were made today by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command. He further said that the clash in which IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier Uri Mayzel was killed last week was still a flammable one, a Hizballah terror squad. Gen. Mordekhay was speaking at a meeting on ongoing security in the Northern Command, and our army affairs correspondent Yoav Ben-Yehuda was there too.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Yehuda] Hizballah [word] operates against the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in south Lebanon, is not the same organization that the army encountered several months ago. It appears that the organization is improving and improving its methods of operations. Hizballah operates from positions which help it avoid harm, and when it goes on ground attacks, it sends large groups, Gen. Mordekhay said.

[Mordekhay] Hizballah has moved from operating squads to larger units of some 15-20, and sometimes 30 terrorists. I note that Hizballah is using mortars and is attempting simultaneous attacks on several outposts in several locations on the ground, with the clear aim of spreading our fire and activity over a wider area and later focusing on each incident.

[Ben-Yehuda] Yet, even in view of these fact, and that the IDF's activity managed to prevent the terrorists from reaching the border strip between Israel and Lebanon and harming the northern settlements, the IDF also

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collected a heavy casualty toll from the terrorists. It is known that at least 94 terrorists were killed in the security zone this year. Gen. Mordekhai also reacted to criticism leveled at the IDF for its and the SLA's so-called, low-profile activity.

[Mordekhai] This question is occasionally repeated, perhaps with a grain of truth. Why do we not go out and attack Hizballah before it attacks us? Well, I am not familiar with Hizballah targets in south Lebanon. Hizballah is hiding among and mingles with the local civilian population, and sits in places far from the combat zone. It arrives at the area of activity shortly before performing it and then leaves the area.

[Ben Uliel] Gen. Mordekhai also revealed today that Palestinian terrorists belonging to the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine were involved in the fatal last week in which an IDF soldier was killed in the eastern sector of the security zone [cited wounding].

[Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1405 GMT on 1 September carries a similar report by army affairs correspondent Kornelia Meyuhas. In a recorded message, Mordekhai says: "As long as there is no political solution, we will take all the every means at our disposal—in the security zone and outside it—to harm the terrorist operating against us. Lebanon knows that there is almost no difference between us regarding agreements and political processes that may take place with the State of Israel. It is not doing anything about this because someone would not let it, because someone prevents it from doing this. We tell Lebanon: we talk to you that Lebanon will probably be the last country to sign any kind of agreement with Israel because it is convenient to activate terrorists and other elements from Lebanese territory."]

Sharon Claims Government 'Covering Up for Arabs'

[Text] [Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Sep 94]

[Text] This afternoon, the Likud's party branches and local council heads will convene to discuss the political and economic situation. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Knesset Member [MK] Ariel Sharon claims he was not invited, and it appears that David Levy was not invited as well.

MK Sharon lashed out at the government this morning. According to him, high security officials have informed certain persons that Arabs and Jews are declared when grave attacks are perpetrated against Jews, particularly if they take place in Jerusalem or inside the Green Line. Sharon claims that Arabs wants the areas under his control quiet, but his own entourage the murders of Jews in other places. Sharon says the government is covering up for Arabs whose men are not taking steps against the terror organizations. He demands that a full answer be prepared on the terrorism and that it not be lifted until the murderers of Uzi Rerab and Yehoram Kaspah are turned over to Israel.

[A similar report by Shmu'el Tal on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 19 August adds that Sharon also said that the government's failure to impose a closure on the territories "is not because it does not know that one is called for but because Arafat objects to it."]

[Tal adds that the Likud spokesmen has said that Sharon and Levy were invited to today's meeting, but they regretfully replied that they are unable to attend.]

Decline in Pact Violations by Palestinians Noted

[Excerpt] Military sources say there is a significant decline in violations by the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip of the PLO-Israel accord. A meeting took place this week in Gaza to review the first seven weeks of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]-Palestinian liaison forces officers expressed satisfaction with the joint patrols with the Palestinians as well as with the communications and liaison officer. But the officers said attacks against Israeli Army patrols and positions remained a problem. [passage omitted]

In Gaza City, Palestinian police have arrested three armed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Sources in Hamas told Qol Yisra'el that the three were not wanted by the Palestinian authorities, but were known Hamas activists.

Regional Cooperation Against Fundamentalism Viewed

[Excerpt] [Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 19 Sep 94 p 8]

[Commentary by Dan Margalit]

[Text] A review of the past decade's major events and Shimon Peres is enough to conclude that the traditional sources of power—arms, superpower patron played only a marginal part in them. They were almost totally in the possession of, in which Mikhail Gorbachev's government was ousted, South African apartheid was dismantled, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace process started taking in the Norwegian capital. It is not because powers were weak or is because they are reluctant to take part in wars that have become extinct. They cannot provide an effective answer to nuclear weapons, and several attempts in the past few last months in places where wars were waged by the old means—Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda—the UN's impotence was registered.

On a New Year's Eve statement used to reflect on past events. This is certainly true of a man like Shimon Peres who gives comprehensive descriptions of the reality that is changing, to some extent thanks to him.

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The foreign minister, however, does not only deal with academically defining his views. One may understand that Peres is trying to enact his views as a starting point in forming Israel's policies for the next year, the last year in which a real political move can be taken before the next Knesset elections. We may use his style and, seeking to prevent the revival of fights in his government, say that deep in their hearts the generals realize they cannot protect the old reality, nor can they leave their mark on creating the new one.

Thus, his comprehensive evaluation hints at a nucleus of his actual stand. Indeed, Uzzi Baram's stand that constant Israeli presence on the Golan Heights improves Israel's level of security has some merit, but what prevents down to have on the scale of Israel's policies? The chief of staff was right when he determined that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Judaea and Samaria will impact on the lives of the Jews in the territories, but this issue is not at the top of the Israeli pyramid of priorities.

In such a world, conquering territories is no longer the law of the strong. The weak will initiate a different type of war. The neighboring nation-state is not the enemy. Israel translated in the language of reality. Israel's existence is not threatened by Syria, it is threatened by the regional reality.

This notion puts us very close to far reaching flexibility vis-a-vis Syria in short. After all, if the common enemy is Iranian and Libyan fundamentalism, Yitzhaq Rabin and Hafiz al-Asad have such a real common enemy that the issue of placing warning stations on Mount Hermon and Mount Karmel becomes a third-rate problem.

This concept has already taken some root in Israeli policymaking. Peres publicly mentioned that Israel had agreed in the past to recognize Syrian sovereignty on the entire Golan Heights. Rabin has not gone this far yet, but he has said that if he offers Damascus more than he pledged before his voters, he would return to them and ask for their confidence in a referendum. This is hard to digest, but easy to explain.

After all, it is not the sound of Syria's sabers that keeps Jerusalem awake, it is the religious awakening in the region. Eliminating the Islamic religious filibuster can be achieved by funneling dollars into the coffers of the backward nations, not by military activity.

In the Foreign Ministry's segment, Peres' attitude is reflected in the clear effort made for the success of the Casablanca conference. The conference is meant to provide the financial cushion for the political results of the Oslo agreement, even at the price of causing certain harm to the Jerusalem conference that will deal with the same issues. If indeed poverty and religious zealotry are the immediate enemy—expensive currencies and regional pacts should replace cannons.

Israel cannot lead a Middle East coalition against fundamentalism, but it can encourage its establishment. The best way to do that would be by conducting peace negotiations with the entire Arab world—with the exception of Iran, Iraq, and Libya—and not only with Syria while waiting for the others.

This concept entails quite a few risks. Even now, like whenever the Arab world united in its environment of the Eretz Yisra'el conflict, the Jews lose. But perhaps this concept has also become extinct in a world where partisan ideologies put down their banners.

Is it just imagination to see Egypt, Israel, Syria, and Jordan joining forces to blow the current cycle of calamity which Islam encounters with rhythmic historical cycles? It may well be that it is just the statesmen who can perform such a turn of concepts. Kathleen Lewis was quite right when he claimed in his NEW YORK TIMES article that the end of the state of war in the Middle East was not the result of the peoples' aspiration for peace. According to her, the political agreements are part of the effort by veteran leaders, who have grown accustomed to a disappearing world, to survive under the new conditions as well. So, maybe, it can happen.

Peres Departs for Rome To Attend Economic Seminar

TA0309070994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shimon Peres left for Rome this evening to attend an Italian economic seminar, which will be devoted to discussing investment opportunities in development projects in the Middle East. Our political affairs correspondent adds that on the sidelines of the seminar, the foreign minister will meet with Italian officials and Abu Mazin [Ahmad Qurayi'], who will also attend the meeting.

Police Detain Israeli for Shooting Arab

TA0309041294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] This afternoon, the Samaria police detained an Israeli citizen on suspicion that he shot and wounded a 12-year-old Arab boy who threw stones at his car. Our correspondent Nitzan Horo reports that the incident took place on the main road running near the village of [Pondaqrait] in the Tulkarm District. The shooter was detained after he fled the site and is currently being interrogated. The wounded boy was taken to the Tulkarm hospital for treatment, and his condition is defined as medium.

Refusal To Sign Nonproliferation Treaty Viewed

TA0309043994

[Editorial Report] On 1 September, three Israeli newspapers carry editorials on Israel's flat refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres ex-

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31 August turned down visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa's call to sign the NPT saying that Israel cannot do so unless the entire region is part of a comprehensive peace and arms control regime. The right-wing English-language JERUSALEM POST supports government policy. The left-wing AL HAMISHMAR urges its reconsideration, and the independent MA'ARIV takes a neutral line.

In a 1,200 editorial on page 10 headlined "Egypt's Nuclear Demand," THE JERUSALEM POST says that "encouraging sigh from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres flatly rejected this Egyptian demand." Rabin is quoted as saying that while Musa can reassure Israel of his own country's peaceful intentions, he cannot speak for states like Iran, Iraq, Libya or even Syria, "all of which have extensive chemical and biological warfare capabilities."

"It would be nice to believe that Rabin and Peres will adhere to these positions, but if Israel indeed has the nuclear capacity it is alleged to have, it would be suicidal to relinquish it. Only time will tell if the current red line is any firmer than all its predecessors. But the Egyptian demand betrays not just a lack of sensitivity to Israel's security concerns. It actually confirms the worst fears of those who view the current peace process as dangerous."

The POST maintains that "had Egypt really believed that peace between a shrunken Israel and the Arab world is viable, it should have encouraged Israel to have all the nuclear weapons it can produce. The Egyptians know all too well that there is no danger that Israel would consider the use of nuclear weapons in the region. Indeed, what Peres cried about the UN can be said about Israel with even greater conviction. Such weapons are for Israel nothing more than an insurance against a turn in the Arab position, particularly if Arab countries acquire nuclear weapons. Even the country's leading doves believe in the need for such insurance."

In conclusion, the newspaper writes: "Clearly, Musa's demand should not only elicit a flat and decisive Israeli rejection. It should turn on a warning light in the minds of all Israelis about Egypt's true intentions."

AL HAMISHMAR, in an 800-word editorial on page 6 entitled "The Danger of Nuclear Weapons," says: "It is possible that had Israel not developed a nuclear capability starting in the 1950's, the nuclear race might have been avoided, but it is also possible that Israel would now have been in an inferior strategic position, and susceptible to blackmail of its security or existence." The newspaper says that dispatch of new underscant since "nobody is demanding that Israel unilaterally avoid dealing with the issue, just as nobody will call on Israel to unilaterally disarm itself of conventional weapons. However, the proliferation of nuclear weapons among many states—including North Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq—endangers world peace. The United States is trying to impede the process, but Gush is hard to explain to the Third World the discrimination in Israel's favor compared to the many diplomatic pressure imposed on other states."

AL HAMISHMAR says: "It is doubtful if in the current situation Israel should develop nuclear know-how for non-civilian purposes. It might make do with what it has and permit supervision of the reactor by international elements without endangering its national security. It can join the NPT on that basis."

The editorial adds: "There is also room for reconsidering the policy in view of the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons in the region known as the poor man's atom bomb. To the extent that Israel can contribute to a slowdown in the non-conventional arms race it should do so. Policymakers must also take into account other countries that feel threatened by Israel's massive strategic superiority, which we doubt will continue if the race continues."

A 700-word editorial on page 1 of MA'ARIV, signed by Uzzi Lagid, calls the headline "The Balance of Terror," says it can be assumed that Musa's demand that Israel sign the NPT "immediately" was coordinated with Syrian President al-Asad. "The Syrian president is aware of the fact that the missiles in his possession, which are meant to balance Israel's military superiority, are a double-edged sword. If he has to use them, he will risk an Israeli nuclear reaction. He therefore wants the Egyptians to help him neutralize Israel's lethal advantage. Syria, by the way, is not a signatory to the treaty."

"Rabin and Peres made it clear to the Egyptian foreign minister that Israel would 'be prepared to discuss the nuclear issue only after a peace accord is reached with Syria. Nuclear arms control must embrace not only Israel and its neighbors, but also Iraq, Libya, and Iran, and all the Muslim states which might threaten our existence. The Americans, who are conducting a sharp struggle for nuclear control over North Korea, are in an uncomfortable position. They accept Israel's policy, if not openly, then tacitly."

Netanyahu, Cabinet Criticize Government Policy

TA290115094 Tel Aviv AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 29 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Tzuri]

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday called on his party members to be prepared for early elections in view of the almost certain possibility, as he termed it, of an agreement in the works with Syria over an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

In a Likud mayors' convention at Tel Aviv's Bet Nokovsky yesterday, Netanyahu said he does not know when the government will decide to hold the elections, "because it can decide on it when as long as it continues to be based on this unrepresentative coalition."

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Netanyahu noted that it is very possible that Rabin, who has so far gambled on many things in the agreement with the Palestinians, is ready for a greater and more irresponsible gamble with Syria. Netanyahu said given that, early elections are possible.

"We are interested in early elections, and therefore we must be prepared for such elections," Netanyahu said. He noted that if what he termed the "connection"—that is the agreement with Syria—"will materialize, the Likud will have a very hard battle to wage over the Golan Heights because all the world will support this government and the agreement. Therefore all the power and means we have prepared for this purpose will be devoted to the great battle over the future of the Golan Heights. This is the next objective."

Netanyahu noted that at the same time it is necessary to prevent the West Bank from turning into a second Gaza Strip. "To prevent a situation in which the whole area becomes a de facto Palestinian state."

Netanyahu noted with satisfaction that the Likud has improved its financial situation over the last year. He said the rule has turned, because in the past the Labor Party was in a good financial situation and its branches were open. "Now, on the other hand, the situation has turned around. Labor is closing down its branches whereas we are opening new branches. Our financial situation is better than that of Labor and this enables us to prepare for early elections."

The Likud chairman sharply criticized the government and the prime minister. According to him, the Oslo agreement is based on a double lie and a Palestinian commitment which is turning the entire agreement into a fraud. He noted that the government is defending the Palestinians, who are not fulfilling their part of the agreement, while Israel continues to do its part.

He elaborated on the difference between the agreement with the Palestinians and that with Jordan. "Jordan is a country which wants to coexist with Israel, whereas the PLO wants to destroy Israel."

Likud faction chairman Moshe Katzav said that in every democratic decision are a political must, but in Israel this can naturally lead, in order to save the country from the government, the accused the government of serious economic blunders and that its policy resulted in an increase in car accidents.

Kakh Leader Released, Vows To Continue Fight

[Article] [Title] *Yet Jerusalem* [IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 Aug 94]

[Text] Kakh spokesman Noam Federman was released from Hadarim Prison today, where he spent the past six months in administrative detention. I will continue my fight against the ruling gang, he told our correspondent Nadav Shragai upon his release.

[Begin recording] [Shragai] Kakh Movement leader Noam Federman was released from Hadarim Prison this morning, after serving a six-month administrative detention term. Outside the prison, he was greeted by two youths from the famous Kakh summer camp. This is what he said upon leaving the prison, with the certainty that he will be arrested again.

[Federman] I can say in brief: If the government—this gang that has taken over the country in a dictatorial manner and believes it can do whatever it wants—thinks it has managed to crack down on us, it is wrong. The detention only strengthened my spirit, and I will now continue to act with extra energy and determination to topple this totalitarian regime that believes it can do whatever it wants.

[Shragai] What can you going to do?

[Federman] The same as before, but with more stamina.

[Shragai] What does this mean?

[Federman] It means demonstrations and extensive activity throughout Eretz Yisrael, including Jericho and Gaza. We will act everywhere to overthrow this government.

[Shragai] Baruch Marzel, Moshe Ben Yaagov, and Baruch Ben-Yosef are still serving their administrative detentions at Hadarim Prison. They, too, are expected to be released soon. [end recording]

Labor Party's Midterm Problems Reviewed

[Article] [Title] *Yet Jerusalem* [IDF Radio in Hebrew 30 Aug 94 p 8]

[Commentary by Uzi Mahnaimi]

[Text] Were elections for prime minister held now, Yitzhaq Rabin would receive 47 percent of the votes, while Benyamin Netanyahu would have 44 percent, a near tie. These findings of a public opinion poll conducted by Dr. Mina Tzemach from the Dahaf Institute and published in YEDI'OT AHARONOT on 26 August following the decision to impose a capital gains tax are surprising, perhaps astounding. Because while Rabin has acquired two years worth of impressive feats, historic peace pacts, breakthroughs, and endeavors in other national processes with a view to domestic needs, one will be hard-put to point to anything great or important accomplished by Netanyahu. Actually, the opposition leader's main achievement was his ability to become and remain the head of the Likud. He has not proven himself as a national leader yet, and as opposition leader he has been unable to come up with an alternative to Rabin's policies. Therefore, the "near tie" ought to worry Rabin more than it should delight Netanyahu.

The poll's second question, which dealt with the distribution of power in the Knesset, was more consequential. With the 10-percent decline for Labor and the 10-percent rise for the Likud, were the elections held now

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the government would lose its blocking majority and the Likud would compose a new government.

The government's top decisionmakers and their aides dismissed the poll as utter "drivel." For us it was well understood that only polls giving them an edge are serious and important. The truth is that polls are only applicable to the moment in which they are conducted and that they are the sum-total of the citizen's reaction to what they reflect that week's success or failure. Thus, when a poll reviews issues to which the public is sensitive, such as capital gains tax or the credibility of a prime minister who said no capital gains tax would be imposed as long as he was prime minister but did the very opposite, it is only natural for the poll to reflect a drop in Rabin's popularity. Which is not to say that Rabin will not either rise or fall again in a week.

Polls are very much like the situation on the stock market. Hysterical and pessimistic reactions to rumors and fleeting events. Rabin lost in polls conducted shortly after the Oslo agreement was signed. Yet prior to the agreement with Hussein and shortly after the Hamas affair "Netanyahu scored more than Rabin (in an unpublished poll). The Hussein agreement, with all its theatrics, again turned the wheel in Rabin's favor—until the capital gains tax.

The inability of polls to show full or inconsistencies. While a majority of the public support the peace process, for example, one data company exchanged on most polls reports that more or less half the nation still supports the right-wing parties. If this trend continues, it is potentially fatal news, because where the first direct election of the prime minister is held, the religious bloc is liable to determine who the next prime minister will be. Because if the race is close, the two candidates will vie for the religious votes. This means that the man who manages to reach an early agreement with them before the elections—an Ehud Olmert did in Jerusalem—that man will win in the votes. The religious parties are liable to gain a control they never had, and that is a living nightmare.

Were I the Labor Party, I would not belittle the current polls, because one poll leans with another and on another until they all lean with the final poll on ballot day. Labor leaders should be concerned with last Friday's poll, because it indicates that the balance of power in the Knesset is back to the 50:50 breakdown that existed from 1977 to the 1992 elections, the day on which Rabin managed to acquire a blocking majority. Even if it is true that each individual poll only reflects the public mood on the day it is conducted, the Rabin-led Labor Party does not seem to have risen—despite its impressive achievements—to an altitude at which it is safe from crashing.

The days of euphoria and celebrations have yet to be held. The rejoicing over the departure from Gaza and the thrill over the signing of an agreement with King Hussein on ending the state of war were followed by revelations about growing difficulties in implementing the agreement with the Palestinians, about which the public has ambivalent feelings. Domestic problems such as the looming economic recession or alternately inflation, the housing and employment problems, the rising taxes, the anxiety about the eroding savings, and questions of moral integrity are still ahead of it. In its mailbox, the Labor is very much like a mountaineer who has reached a spot from which—unless he goes on climbing, by launching a vigorous initiative for a breakthrough with Syria, for instance—he is bound to fall.

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Al-Masali Denies Talks Troubled, Sorts Ties Terror

[AU2909092*94 Manama *AL-AYAM in Arabic 0727 GMT 1 Sep 94]

[Text] Manama, 1 Sep (WAKH)—Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. Abd al-Salam al-Masali has denied that the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations have stumbled. He explained that signing a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is not under consideration now because ongoing negotiations are being held on agenda topics. Each topic is signed after it is agreed. Afterward, all the agreements will be grouped together and signed, he added.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM AL-AHALI issued today, the Jordanian prime minister denied that Jordanian-Syrian relations are tense. Asked about signing a peace treaty with Israel, Dr. al-Masali said: A peace treaty is not being considered now. We are now talking about negotiations on the topics listed on the agenda. Whenever a topic is discussed, an agreement on it is signed. The total of these agreements will constitute a treaty, he added.

Fight Against Population Conference Called 'Jihad'

[AU2909102*94 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Sep 94 pp 10, 11]

[Article by Dr. Ibrahim Zaid al-Kilani, House of Representatives member: "Population Conference and the Nation's Identity"]

[Text] Thanks be to God, and prayers and greetings to the truest prophet, his family, companions, and followers.

By reading Clause 7.3 of the population conference working paper, one can see the signs of a new Crusader-Zionist offensive aimed to destroy our faith, morals, and social structure from within. This offensive also aims to destroy our human and cultural values, and to wipe out the heritage of the Prophet Muhammad and other prophets in the Arab and Islamic countries.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger drew up the outlines of the U.S. foreign policy. One of the most dangerous facets of this policy says: To preserve the raw materials required by the U.S. economy, two things are needed: first to control the countries producing these materials, second birth control in these countries so that these raw materials will not be consumed by the peoples in these countries. See U.S. National Security Council Document No. 200.

In addition to the U.S. economic objective there is another objective related to the efforts aimed to wipe out the nation's identity and the spirit of resistance, progress, and jihad, and turn the Arab and Muslim individuals that consume and that are connected with foreign laws and customs of the historical objectives of the West and the United States in the Arab and Muslim countries. Their objective is to kill the Arab and Muslim youths with vices, destroy family clusters and parties, encourage divorce, and weaken the family and social bonds of which our Arab and Islamic nations are proud. Their objective is to turn our Arab homeland into a U.S. protectorate, which the United States can control—land, skies seas, resources, oil roads, culture, and civilization. They want to change the Arabs and Muslims into the new Red Indians under the hegemony of the new world order.

If the American of the past killed off the natives of America and then conquered what remained of the natives within his new society after wiping out their identity, the new American is implementing the policy of his ancestors in a new style. He wants to kill or culturally and civil our presence in terms of our history, land, and dreams.

This Crusader-Zionist conference is a continuation of the Crusader-Zionist aggression in Palestine with its aim of implanting its political, economic, cultural, and social cancer in the body of the Arab and Islamic nation.

It is also a continuation of the Western U.S. invasion of the culture and education of the Arab and Muslim societies with the aim of wiping out the identity of the Arab and Islamic nations and their civilization, values, traditions, and morals. Therefore, I unequivocally say that it is against Islam to attend this conference in view of its objectives. Boycotting this conference is a duty and fighting it is a jihad. I ask the rulers of Arabs and Muslims, the fathers and mothers, and those who have responsibilities as intellectuals to guide us to confront the Western liars, the killers of nations, and the enemies of humanity. I also urge them to shield themselves with Islam, the religion that God has given them, to work from its teachings and to spread his word. The nation of the Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, is the one that has God's message as a trust and which has the heritage of the Prophet Muhammad and other prophets. Ye are the best of peoples evolved (sic) (from mankind). Enjoying what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in God. If only the people of the Book had (sic) faith, it were best for them. Among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors. [Koranic verse] (1) Ye that believe, betray not the trust of Allah and the messenger nor misappropriate knowingly. [Koranic verse]

The United States' weapon to impose its population policy will be its economic assistance to the developing countries and the kind of cargo it supplies us (sic). We should either be sheep and be disarmed from our Islam, traditions, and values, or we should not accept its conditions.

It is the battle of cultural and [illegible] challenge for these Arab and Islamic nations—rulers and peoples—and these nations will not be humiliated and will not bow

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And soon will the unjust usurpers know what reconsolidates their affairs will take. [Kuwaiti verse]

Paper Condemns Israeli Hebron Mosque Policy

[Editorial "The Israeli Arrogance in Hebron"]

[Text] Israel is addressing the al-Ibrahimi Mosque's issue in occupied Hebron with an arrogant and revengeful mentality and in a way that does not conform to the peace atmosphere. This mentality does not conform to the requirements of a process that is destined to conclude by opening a new chapter in terms of convenience, good neighborliness, and even cooperation in many fields.

However, this arrogant Israeli mentality, which is fond of its own strength and military superiority over the Arabs, in addressing all issues pertaining to the peace process. It is as if Israel has just emerged from a war and as if its extremist leaders are sitting at a table dictating terms and obtaining as many concessions as possible without paying any attention to the future changes and their various possibilities.

It is possible to note this arrogant spirit in all aspects of the peace process and in various negotiating sessions.

What Israel is doing in Hebron and against the al-Ibrahimi Mosque is the best example of both the unpeaceful mentality governing the Israeli decision-maker and the extent of his short-sightedness as he is exploiting the current moment of supremacy to sow more seeds of hatred against him in the hearts of Arabs and Muslims.

Hebron is an occupied town, and its al-Ibrahimi Mosque is an Islamic heritage which is sacred to 1 billion Muslims. Israel, however, has been closing down this mosque for six months to the Muslim worshipers and opening it to the extremist Jewish settlers. Moreover, Israel has sealed the mosque's halls and allocated their greater portion to the Jews, thus disavowing the simplest and deepest feelings of millions of Arabs and Muslims.

While condemning this Israeli conduct, which persists in disregarding the feelings of 1 billion Muslims and urging a halt to practices that will poison the atmosphere of the negotiations, we caution about the consequences of continuing such an arrogant policy and about its direct impact on the atmosphere of negotiations held with a state that does not stop hurting the simplest and deepest feelings of all Arabs and Muslims.

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Leaders Leave for 'Summit Talks' in Damascus

[illegible]

[illegible] Premier Rafiq al-Hariri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri are flying to Syria at 0630 GMT today. They will hold meetings with senior Syrian officials.

Prior to their departure, the three government leaders met at the Presidential Palace and reviewed the ties that will be discussed during the Lebanese-Syrian summit.

The correspondents in Damascus said today that the summit agenda is limited to the Middle East file and does not include domestic developments and U.S. statements on Hizb'allah. Christopher's visit figured high on the political talks' agenda, especially linked to the Middle East issues which might also be discussed.

Dalal: Hizballah To Disband When Israel Withdraws

[illegible]

Hizb'allah Deputy Secretary-General Shaykh Nabil Qa'uq participated in the Palestinians in a major issue that has yet to be solved. Here all the Lebanese people have agreed on it. He said the issue cannot be decided by a minister, deputy, leader, or any other figure. He pointed out that disarmament would mean the liquidation of the Palestinian cause. Qa'uq said it cannot be decided without consensus and regional conditions. He called upon us not to be afraid and said the presence of weapons is accommodating the huge number of Palestinians is more responsible and unacceptable.

Discussing the regional situation, Qa'uq said that the peace talk in Jerusalem is Yasir Arafat's delegation to visit a Muslim holy site to threaten Lebanon to [illegible] of the PLO's role in the peace talk with Israel. He added that this will not happen. He stated that there is a political pressure on the Lebanese government and Israel and the Lebanese military withdrawal in the south.

Regarding the issue of the resistance, Qa'uq stressed that there will be no confrontation between the government and the resistance. He said that the Lebanese Army will protect the resistance's weapons from the Israeli forces and collaborators from the south. He pointed out that Hizb'allah will disband itself and hand over its weapons to the legitimate authorities when Israel withdraws from Lebanese territory.

Hizballah Rejects Israeli Measures on Haram Mosque

[illegible]

Hizb'allah spokesman in Beirut, Shaykh Ibrahim Amin al-Sayyid, condemned Israel's measures against the Haram al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. He said that Israel can add to its black record. This measure has met with Arab and Islamic reactions due to the dangerous nature of such an act, which is just another well-studied and well-calculated design to tighten control over the lands and holy places of the Muslims in Palestine. Hizb'allah notes the enemy's new project is a bunch of other projects that successive enemy governments have carried out since Hebron fell into the hands of the occupation during the 1967 June war.

They changed one of the wings of the Mosque into a synagogue; they set up the Qiryat Arba' settlement in a suburb of the city; they uprooted Muslims living around the Mosque and turned the area into a Jewish quarter; and Jewish soldiers and settlers committed a heinous crime against Muslims praying in the the Mosque during last year's month of Ramadan. This latter crime was crowned by the acquittal of the Israeli Government, soldiers, and settlers from any involvement in it. They were cleared of any responsibility for the blood of Muslims shed there through the report issued by the Israeli investigating committee four months after the crime was committed.

The Hizb'allah statement: We believe this is what opened the way to recent measures that gave the Jews practical control of all the wings, corners, and courtyards of the Mosque. The Muslims are left with a small corner in which they are allowed to pray under certain conditions, circumstances, and measures that will further restrict their freedom of movement and bar them from their natural right of access to the Mosque, where they can pray safely.

The Hizb'allah statement believes that all these measures are part of a well-studied and well-calculated scheme to tighten control over the Islamic land and holy places in Palestine. This is coupled with the developments on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks of the peace talks, where Arafat and King Hussein are competing to gain the friendship of the Zionist entity. They are exerting favor with it and giving it all the concessions it wants without calculation. All this is taking place at the expense of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples' basic rights and dignity and our Islamic nation's causes and sanctities.

After all this, the head of the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho and the king of the Jordanian regime are fueling their people by quarreling with each other over who has the right of custody over the holy places in Jerusalem. They give people the impression that they care about it, while they are the ones who forfeited these holy places to the first place to appear and satisfy the Jews.

The Hizb'allah statement affirms that our people in Palestine will not allow the betrayal to pass without punishment. It condemns the Zionist entity's attempts to Judaize Muslim territories and holy places. It expresses surprise at the silence among various Islamic, Arab, and international circles and organizations over the crime of enslaving the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

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The Hizballah statement concludes by confirming that the Muslim nation will not remain silent over the occupation and subjection of its holy places. It will not give in to attempts to impose a humiliating settlement based on handing over to the enemy the places that it has suffered, acknowledging defeat to it, and recognizing the legitimacy of its presence.

Fadlallah Calls For Interethnic Unity in Palestine

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Aug 94 p 4

[Interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Fadlallah by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given: "Religious Makes Us React Against Injustice"]

[Excerpts] Beirut—[passage omitted] [LA VANGUARDIA] What are the Islamic movement's tendencies in the Middle East and North Africa?

[Fadlallah] As you know, Islam is the dominant religion in those countries. Our religion does not only consist of praying to God, but also of administering justice and confronting itself with the problems of man's material lives. There are two main streams. One adopts a violent attitude, using the methods of the underground, while the other advocates the use of violent methods only in self-defense, although violence forms no part of its ideological basis. In Lebanon, as Palestine, they have had to resort to violence to defend themselves from the Israeli state, which makes it unavoidable. Indeed, as when a government refuses to recognize its people, as when it persecutes the masses of refugees in its land, as in Algeria the Muslims, having adopted democratic methods but the military regime, with Western support, annulled the elections and dissolved the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. That was when they were forced to react with violence in order to defend themselves from the Jacobin state, which refuses to acknowledge defeat, as when a government refuses to recognize its people, as when it persecutes the masses of refugees in its land, as in Algeria the Muslims, having adopted democratic methods but the military regime, with Western support, annulled the elections and dissolved the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. That was when they were forced to react with violence in order to defend themselves. In Egypt the Islamists suffered the same treatment when the Cairo government confiscated their right to political expression and refused to grant them their freedom. In the face of Western targets, such as the United States, the various Muslim establishments have always chosen to confront the challenge.

[LA VANGUARDIA] The religious motives of the new anti-Islamic tendency are well known but, in your opinion, do you think that there are any sociological and economic reasons underlying it?

[Fadlallah] It is only natural that religious impulses should combine economic and social elements because religion is not a pure, abstract state; it is rooted in thought and reality. Religious readers do react against injustice.

[LA VANGUARDIA] What attitude should the Western nations adopt toward Muslim countries?

[Fadlallah] They must respect the people's wills and establish balanced relations with them. Only then will a new era begin in which the West will encounter a completely open attitude and this will facilitate prosperous cooperation. Our problem is that the West has been, and still is, a colonial power. We do not like colonialism, not even Muslim ones.

[LA VANGUARDIA] Do you think we are witnessing the beginnings of a clash between civilizations?

[Fadlallah] The problem between Islam and the West is a political problem, not a clash of civilizations. Once it has been resolved, a fruitful dialogue will begin between us. The battlefield has no role to play in this confrontation. On the other hand, the opposition is natural when you consider the differences in thought and practical behavior.

[LA VANGUARDIA] Why do you think Islam has such a bad reputation in the West?

[Fadlallah] The West describes this movement as an extremist force, the way it did with Arab nationalism or Marxism. In its view, all movements acting to promote their countries' independence are extremist, as are those which oppose Western interests. This concept, which has no scientific basis, confuses public opinion with regard to Islam. We need to cooperate with the West, as the West needs our natural riches and our strategic position, but Western governments, which encourage pluralism in their own societies, back authoritarian regimes in the Middle East and North Africa. When push comes to shove, they prefer to defend their own interests at the expense of the majority. We are not extremists.

[LA VANGUARDIA] In general, Islamic groups reject the Middle East peace negotiations. Is there any alternative to the Madrid peace conference and its developments?

[Fadlallah] The solution is a Palestinian state in which Jews, Muslims, and Christians live together like before. We are not against peace, we are against submission or disgrace.

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Press Discusses Conditions for Peace

[Article] "Al-Thawrah on Israeli Withdrawal From Golan Heights" - Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1447 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and the Israeli chief of staff on the occupied Golan Heights. The paper says these statements, which were in Washington and Copenhagen, clearly confirm Israel's scheme in the Arab territories. They also confirm that Israel does not wish to withdraw from these territories, but to keep them as a card for pressure, bargaining, and extortion. They further confirm once again what everyone knows: Israel is not interested in peace and does not support it.

The paper notes that yesterday Rabin reaffirmed that Israel refuses to abide by complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights and spoke again of the plebiscite on withdrawal from the Golan Heights so as to put to peace against a complete withdrawal.

The paper adds: No one knows what kind of peace Rabin is talking about, or the nature of this peace which lacks the most basic conditions and requirements represented in the principle of the complete and comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, a return to the 4 June 1967 boundaries, and submission to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: If the Tel Aviv rulers think peace can be achieved without returning the occupied lands and rights to their rightful owners and that they can continue aggression and expansion and obstinacy in the occupation, then they are harboring an illusion. Experience has shown that such a peace cannot survive or provide security or stability.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria's full sovereignty over the Golan Heights is not subject to discussion or infringement. Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, western Al Biqa', and the other occupied Arab territories is Syria's legitimate demand and condition for the just and comprehensive peace.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The experience of the past 25 years of diplomatic efforts in the region has proved that peace must be just and comprehensive, or there can be no peace. This is what Syria has advocated and stressed from the very beginning. That experience has also shown that Israel is the only party that obstructs these peace efforts.

The paper adds: Syria, which loves the beginning advocated comprehensive peace, announced its categorical rejection of partial and separate solutions because it realized that they do not bring peace or help achieve peace. Instead, such solutions will only create new contradictions that will benefit Israel and help it entrench its occupation.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that it has been confirmed in practice that partial solutions could not stop wars and conflicts in the region, but instead, exacerbated them. The events of the past 15 years confirm this fact and reveal that separate solutions cannot make peace. The recent Oslo and Washington agreements also confirmed that they could not stop the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. This means that these partial and incomplete solutions must be stopped and the efforts to achieve just and comprehensive peace must be amplified to achieve that goal and to implement the UN resolutions concerning the conflict in the region.

AL-THAWRAH adds: There has been recent growth in the appeals to boost the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and achieve comprehensive peace on the basis of the Madrid Conference. The factors for such a boost, however, are still unavailable and the climates that surround the peace process do not indicate that Israel continues to reject peace and adheres to occupation.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Ending the Israeli occupation and Israel's submission to the resolutions of international legitimacy constitute the only essential way to make the peace process follow the correct path toward the goal of just and comprehensive peace.

Under the headline "Conditions And Requirements For The Just And Comprehensive Peace," AL-BA'TH says in an editorial: The Israeli rulers think that they can attain everything they want and that time is playing in their favor to achieve breakthroughs similar to those they achieved on certain fronts.

The paper adds: Even what Israel achieved through certain breakthroughs enabled it to gain things it has always dreamed of gaining or achieving. This does not mean that what is achieved will provide it with everything it wants, particularly security, stability, and peace. Israel knows very well that these cannot be provided as long as it continues to occupy a single inch of our Arab territory.

The paper adds: The Oslo Agreement and the subsequent agreements denied our Palestinian Arab people their national legitimate rights, rights for which the Arab nation has offered great sacrifices. The Oslo Agreement came to destroy these rights and even the dreams of the Palestinian people.

The paper reaffirms Syria's position of separate solutions and stresses that Syria supports every effort to return rights to their rightful owners. It also stresses that the method of pressures and procrastination will not work with Syria because its position on the issue of the peace settlement in the region is based on clear and established foundations, which cannot be infringed upon.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We will continue to support the comprehensive peace that is based on justice and in accordance with the resolutions of international

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reformacy and the land-for-peace formula. The conditions and requirements to ensure the success of the peace process are known and have been approved by the entire world community. He who wishes to see the region enjoying security, stability, and peace must work seriously to implement the conditions and requirements of the peace process.

Vehicle Assembly Deal Signed With General Motors

[SUMMARY] [passage of 8 Jul 94 p 11]

[Report by Dawud Nimari from Damascus]

[Text] The Syrian-American Industries Company, whose partners include Americans of Syrian and Lebanese origin, has signed a contract with General Motors to set up a vehicle assembly plant.

According to the contract, the U. S. company will provide the Syrian company with spare parts and everything it needs to set up an integrated plant. It will also supervise production and management.

It has been learned that the factory will most likely be built in Aleppo.

The Higher Council for Investment in January approved in principle the plan to set up a factory to assemble sedan cars, pickups, and jeeps, without any government participation. The project will be implemented on the basis of Investment Law No. 10 of 1991. The partners, who are all from the private sector, will pay their contributions in foreign currencies from their assets abroad. The company will further agree that its products over a period of 10 years from the date of starting production will have at least 50 percent locally-produced components.

The proposed company has a capital of 1,931 million Syrian pounds, equivalent to $141 million.

According to a study, the company will produce 9[illegible] sedan cars, 10,000 jeeps, and 15,000 pickups a year. It will employ 1,000 people—administrators, technicians, and ordinary workers—whose wages are estimate at [illegible] 425,600 Syrian pounds.

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Afghanistan

Loya Jerga Delegation To Meet With UN Envoy

[2302062]0404 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pushto 2330 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] A delegation of the members of the commission for the convening of the Islamic Loya Jerga left today for Pakistan to meet with Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general.

The delegation, which has left for that country with Sarwar Nasrullah Emad, minister of agriculture and representative of Jamiat-e Islami [Islamic Society], as a head, is due to meet with representatives of jihadi organizations for talks about their participation in the commission for the convening of the Islamic Loya Jerga of Afghanistan, the work of which goes ahead right now in Kabul. Similarly the delegation will meet with Mahmoud Mestiri and will brief him about the convening of the Islamic Loya Jerga which is due to be convened in the month of Sajrah [starting 23 October] in Kabul.

Hekmatyar Party Reportedly Accepts UN Plan

[2302062]2704 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Hekmatyar's Hezbe Eslami [Islamic Party] has announced that that party and other members of the anti-Burhanuddin Rabbani Coordination Council accept the UN proposed plan for the settlement of the Afghan crisis. According to the Central News Unit, a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezbe Eslami announced the above and added: Under the UN proposal, the representatives of 10 Afghan groups and parties will be involved. The crisis will be resolved in stages through their negotiations and agreements.

Meanwhile, the forces opposing Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani have threatened to target the Afghan Government's passenger aircraft starting tomorrow because they are being used for military purposes.

Ariana Denies Airliners Used for Military Purposes

[2302062]4704 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pushto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] In a statement today Ariana Afghan Airlines rejected the claim that their airplanes are being used for military purposes. Last night an item was broadcast by the BBC about a statement of the so-called Coordination Council in which it was said that Ariana company transported weapons and military ammunition in its airplanes, and, therefore, they would be attacked on the ground and in the air beginning 11 Sunbola 1373 [2 September 1994] by the Gulbeddin-Dostam militia.

This allegation was considered completely unfounded by the statement of Ariana Afghan Airlines Company. It added: Ariana has always adhered to international norms and regulations. As a national service institution and in line with the norms and standards of IATA, the International Air Transport Association, and of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Ariana Afghan Airlines carry only civilian passengers, commercial goods, goods of primary necessity, medicines, and Afghan pilgrims on the basis of an internationally registered flight schedule. It has never embarked on the transport of weapons and other military supplies in contravention of international civil regulations and flight security norms, and will not do so in the future as well.

The statement of Ariana Airlines Company also said that it rejects any threat of use and actual use of weapons against civilian airplanes and installations in keeping with the values of the international civil aviation convention signed in Chicago in 1944 and international protocols signed in Tokyo, The Hague, and Montreal.

Similarly, Ariana airplanes land in and fly from civilian international airports, are supervised by air traffic officials, and the transport of weapons and military supplies is thus prevented.

At the end of its statement, Ariana Afghan Airlines Company asked for the security of their airplanes to be ensured, that Ariana be allowed to serve the compatriots, and for it to be able to carry out its national and international tasks in the service of the people confidently and safely.

India

Editorial Applauds Rejection of MTCR 'Pressure'

[2612]0405/1994 Delhi [SAINIK] [AGRAM in Hindi 1 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Our Defense Policy"]

[Text] It is indeed a healthy sign that the Indian Government has clearly told a delegation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) that under no conditions will India shelve its missile program. After the declaration of Pakistan that it has the nuclear bomb, India should not be lax in its defense preparations in any way. On the other hand, in the face of fast changing circumstances the Indian Government should speed up its missile program with redoubled vigor. Pakistan also possesses the M-11 high-grade missile which it bought from China. Moreover, Pakistan can always purchase the missiles that Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Syria possess thanks to its special relationship with these countries. Under these circumstances it is high time India reviewed its defense policy afresh without succumbing to pressure from any country, big or small.

Although Washington has declared that the spokesman of the Indian External Affairs Ministry also reiterated that the delegation of the MTCR had no intention of putting any pressure on India, the fact remains that the

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United States does not want India to continue its missile program. The United States has not even kept this desire secret because it has long been pressuring India to shelve its missile program as well as its nuclear program. But should India stop or curb the pace of these programs merely because of U.S. pressure? Most certainly, after the confidential declaration by Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan has the bomb, there is now no scope for India slackening these two vital programs. Today Pakistan not only possesses the bomb, but also a variety of high-quality missiles, sturdy tanks, and deadly bombers. If India does not now fortify its defense system, it will be inviting trouble from a variety of quarters. It is true that our prime minister has repeatedly assured us that we need not worry about the Pakistani nuclear bomb, but is it really not a matter of grave concern? Suppose conditions quickly deteriorate between the two countries—quite possible considering the rapidly worsening relations between the two—and war breaks out with Pakistan, what will India do? It has neither the bomb nor the latest missiles. We should have equal striking power, if not better, to give Pakistan a fitting reply in the event of an armed confrontation. Today, wars can only be won with the latest weapons and missiles. Gone are the days when an army's strength was determined by the number of troops, which was formerly the decisive factor in victory or defeat in a war. No doubt the morale of the forces contributes to winning a war, but not without the latest weapons and a highly developed defense technology.

India now faces danger not only from Pakistan, but from China as well which has made Tibet a warehouse of deadly nuclear weapons. We must not ignore this alarming situation. China has deployed many long-range missiles in Tibet which can prove lethal for Indian security because most of our important cities and establishments fall within their range. Moreover, everyone knows how China has deceived India in the past. Although China has entered into an agreement with India that it will maintain the status quo and, hence, peace on our borders, mere agreements cannot guarantee the safety and security of our nation. Agreements do not prevent a country from fortifying its defense system or taking appropriate measures to safeguard its security, especially when a potential enemy is augmenting its military power by leaps and bounds. If a neighboring country becomes militarily very powerful, it is only natural to suspect its intentions. India should also be vigilant and fully prepared to meet any threat to its sovereignty.

There is no doubt that India can expect trouble not only from Pakistan, but from China also. It is earnestly hoped that the Indian Government apprised the MTCR delegation about the nature and scope of these problems. Now the effect of the Indian Government's open talks with representatives of the various nations, that formed the MTCR delegation, including big powers like the United States and Britain, needs to be watched. If the United States realizes the limitations faced by India, it might take the necessary steps. Still better would be if Prime Minister Rao broaches this subject on his meet with the U.S. President in the coming days. Several months ago when our prime minister visited the United States the countries signed an agreement which stated that the Indian prime minister could directly contact the U.S. President to exchange views should the need arise. Taking advantage of this opportunity, our prime minister should apprise the U.S. President fully of the Indian situation. This gesture would not only prove harmless to Indian interests, but it might also provide some tangible benefits.

Possible Closure of Karachi Consulate Viewed

BK0709094794 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 7 Sep 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Surviving Links in the Face of Uncertainty"]

[Text] Pakistan appears to have already made up its mind about closing the Indian Consulate in Karachi or else there is no justification to declare a senior Indian diplomat, J.J. Singh, who has been working in Karachi for three years persona non grata. Why should he be forced to leave Pakistan? This order left India with no alternative but to retaliate by asking the first secretary of the Pakistan High Commission, Shahid Malik, to leave India within a week because of his extradiplomatic activities. It is not difficult to understand the Pakistan Government's attitude toward Indian diplomats working in Pakistan. The leaders of Pakistan have been trying to close the Indian Consulate in Karachi for a long time, gaining momentum in their campaign after the Dawood House dispute in Bombay. The Pakistan Consulate in Bombay has almost proven defunct by not obtaining the Dawood House. But its closure hardly affects Pakistan because first, users are not many people willing to go to Pakistan from Bombay and, second, Pakistan cannot establish significant trade relations with India through this office. But Pakistan has made it a prestige issue. Still it is not correct to assume Pakistan hatched a conspiracy to close the Karachi office in retaliation for its not getting the Dawood House in Bombay. The main reason is Pakistan's fear of a mass influx of Pakistani nationals from Karachi to India. The number of visa seekers at the Karachi office has been growing tremendously. It was because of this that the Indian High Commission minded more employees in the Karachi Consulate. The internal condition of Sindh Province is rapidly deteriorating and Pakistan is afraid that if a large number of Sindhis are allowed to come to India, they will reveal to the world the sorry condition of the residents in Sindh.

In order to vent the rancor in Sindh Province, Pakistani leaders have launched a crusade against the Sindhis and Muhajirs by blaming charges of espionage against them. They are also trying to entangle Indian diplomats in this trap. The intelligence agency of Pakistan informed its government that until the Indian Consulate in Karachi

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control. Pakistan could not control the thousands of Pakistani nationals desirous of going to India to meet their relatives. If the Indian Consulate in Karachi is closed permanently and the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi faces severe restrictions as are now being imposed on Indian diplomats in Pakistan, it will lead to the total elimination of any possible formal dialogue between the two countries. But it appears as though Pakistan does not feel any need or relevance for such dialogue. The leader of the opposition, Nawaz Sharif, and Ms Benazir Bhutto are vying with each other to make anti-India sentiment. If Benazir is exhorting people to launch an armed jihad against India from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Nawaz Sharif is going a step further and declaring that Pakistan possesses the bomb. Purely for swelling Benazir, the ex-prime minister of Pakistan "confessed" in London that he had to come out with the truth for the sake of national interest in order to prevent Benazir from disclosing any bargains concerning the bomb and Kashmir. Now Benazir is forced to step up her anti-India tirade to prove her greater loyalty to the nation is unfathomable. This ongoing anti-India competition between the two Pakistani leaders might plummet India-Pak relations to their nadir and totally ruin what little chance there is to settle the various mutual disputes through peaceful means.

Joint Trade Chamber To Be Formed With Iran

BK2309114194 Delhi UNI HINDI/SCAN ITEXT in English 07:30 GMT 94 p 10

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 23—An Indo-Iranian Chamber of Commerce is to be formed to encourage trade between the two countries. A decision on this has been taken during Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee's current visit to Iran.

Mr Mukherjee held discussions with Iranian Commerce Minister Yazdi-e-Ebtag. Both sides agreed to take steps to form the trade chamber. The importance of Iran as a transit country for India's trade with the Central Asian Republics and East Europe was also discussed.

The Iranian side invited the Indian companies to participate in Iran's import substitution development projects such as rail and road network, port and warehousing, power, chemicals, oil and gas sector including gas pipelines.

Mr Mukherjee also held discussions with Iranian Premier H. Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and underlined the need and desirability of further intensifying Indo-Iranian bilateral cooperation particularly in commercial and economic sectors.

He said this process would get a boost during the forthcoming visit of Iranian President to India. Mr Rafsanjani said the strong ties between the two countries provided a stable foundation for expansion in scientific, educational and cultural fields.

Mr Mukherjee also met Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Roads and Transportation Minister Ali Akbar Torkan and Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines President A. N. S. Khamooshi. There were discussions on the implementation of the railway projects that had already been identified.

Agreements Reached With Thai Trade Delegation

BK2309111794 Delhi THE PATRIOT in English 19 Aug 94 p 10

[Text] India and Thailand on Saturday (27 August) agreed to pool their resources for meeting the requirements of the Indo-China markets, explore possibilities of doing counter trade and extending credit line for financing exports by the Exim banks of the two countries.

The agreement in this regard was reached at the conclusion of the two day seventh meeting of the joint trade committee of the two countries.

The formal agreement as signed by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce Alok Dia and Chanut Chaithiem, Director General in the Thai Ministry of Commerce.

Specific trade issues raised by Thailand related to items such as rice, tapioca starch, pulses and frozen squids.

Specific trade issues raised by the Indians side involved dumping of hydroperoxide, surcharge on soyabean product in Thailand and value added tax (VAT) on gems and jewellery.

Trade promotion measures and other issues of regional and sub-regional and multilateral trade were also taken up.

The Thai delegation explained the various recent measures taken by their Government to enhance trade and economic relations with the countries of the Indo-China region.

The line of credit extended by the Exim Bank of India to Siam Commercial Bank was discussed as regards the suggestion for the Thai Exim Bank to extend line of credit for promoting Thai exports to India. The visiting delegation explained that the bank had just started functioning this year and such credits could be examined on a case by case basis. [sentence as published]

On the charge of dumping of hydrogen peroxide by Indian producers, the agreement says the Indian side recognised the "legalities" in the case.

However, its export of hydrogen peroxide from India to Thailand constituted an insignificant proportion of the total bilateral trade.

The Thai delegation said it had received a complaint from its producers that showed "convincingly" the effect on their production following large scale imports.

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In fact, the Thai delegation stated that although the investigation had revealed that the use of dumping was more than 70 per cent, its Ministry of Commerce had finally decided to impose an anti-dumping duty of Thailand three last New Delhi the Indian side 30 per cent only. [sentence as published]

The Indian side agreed to look into the Thai complaint that some exporters were sending poor quality commodities and that there were problems relating to delivery.

Effects of Upholding GATT Agreement Viewed

BK1108134394 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 9 Sep 94 p 6

[Article by Lakshmikant Shivastava: "Are We Prepared To Accept the GATT Order?"]

[Text] Next year will see the GATT agreement come into force, and the newly constituted World Trade Organization, replacing the GATT, will start functioning. Our Commerce Ministry is preparing to join the new world trade system. However, before we do so a lot of laws need to be reformed, and the government is not convinced that the opposition will support these reforms. The patent law will have to be reformed. The customs and duty standard also requires certain reforms to make it more logical. It has been proposed to reduce its rates, and the Finance Ministry is actively considering this. Under the GATT agreement each member country is given one year to set right its legal and administrative makeup in accordance with the agreement's provisions. During this phase, the arrangement has been made to hold talks on the bilateral issues with many countries to settle the existing disputes.

A Complicated Job. The Commerce Minister, Mr Pranav Mukherjee, has suggested preparing a large all-encompassing resolution instead of preparing many resolutions to reform different laws. This proposal by Mr Mukherjee has already been sent to the prime minister for his views. After getting the prime minister's approval, a new resolution will be drafted encompassing all the proposed reforms in various laws. The advice of the Law Ministry is also being sought for this purpose. No doubt this is a complicated job and even the government is facing difficulty accomplishing it. The problems that surface in doing so are not only legal but administrative. There are not many world trade experts in our Finance Ministry. With the proposal of enforcing the new system the basic problem that is arising is striking a balance between our existing policies and programs and this new system. To achieve this balance, it is imperative to have a proper selection and training process for officials, since the work is so massive that a small number of experts will not suffice. The government must appoint many experts in the Commerce Ministry, and they should be given powers equivalent to the director in the joint secretary. Each of the concerned—Finance, Foreign, Industry, Commerce and the allied ministries will need experienced and well-trained officials. The Commerce Ministry can act as the coordinator to better use their services.

Of course, there are far-reaching problems, and their solutions are also to be found on the same lines. Not only the center, but the states also need to have experts in world trade. If India has to derive an advantage from this new world order, efforts should be made at the national level. Dr. Subramaniyam Swamy, who for was cabinet minister in Chandrashekhar's government, suggested the opening of export centers under the supervision of the States Trade Authority in a few selected airports in various states to boost our exports from local points. Under this system the exporters were not required to send their goods to far-off airports. This proposal needs to be reconsidered. Presently, Dr. Swamy has been appointed one of the advisers of the Commerce Ministry. In the agriculture sector, an advisory committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan to step up the activities in research and development. India is planning to boost exports of its agriculture products and is taking adequate measures to do so. There is a wide scope in the proposed new trade order under GATT.

The Test of India's Capability. The economists are now of the opinion that due to the reforms enforced under the new economic policy, India has become quite capable of withstanding world market competition. Not only in the government, but in the private sector also preparations are under way with great enthusiasm. It is to witness these preparations that the groups of industrialists and businessmen have started to accompany the prime minister on his foreign visits. However, the government has not yet been able to submit details of the preparations. The country should be told about the tangible benefits it can derive under the new world order. It is necessary to take people into confidence. This would also help to tackle the opposition effectively.

How much benefit are we going to get from the new order? Will it help in the economic development of the country and enhance our income? Will it ensure India's prosperity? What will be our position in the comity of nations? Will this new order help eliminate unemployment and poverty? Obviously, this sort of questions must be arising in the minds of the common people. Although the government has declared its policies and also liberalized the economy to all means, it has not been able to declare its work plan vis-a-vis development under the new system. As far as the eighth plan is concerned, it appears to be losing its relevance in the modern context. The plan needs to be modified, because there is going to be a great change in our economic system in the coming five years. All the countries are now vying with each other to achieve progressive prosperity. A big country like India should be afraid of many countries in this race. The experts believe that this is quite possible, provided our work policy is far-reaching and broad-based, for which reforms in the administrative setup are necessary.

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But these experts forget that India has its own captive market, which itself is quite big, although also is unable to develop it as a joint market. In our country, unfortunately, each state moves in a separate path. For this reason, total liberalization cannot be enforced. Even certain vital local issues cannot be openly taken from one state to another. Hence the appeal to the Congress I am making to various parties is recommend enforcement of an integrated market system in our country. It is necessary because of the dangerous rate under which a person cannot take his farm products to the state wants he wishes to dwell. A few years of more and more of export are in different states. Even the Government of India has not taken any concrete step in this direction. To enable India to join the world trade system, our markets should be developed into an integrated large market, with the same advanced technologies. This would not only help the traders and businessmen but also the common man with adequate supplies of goods and hence the possibility of better consumption.

The Prohibition Lacuna Developed by achieving success so far on the growth of the economic progress is concerned, the Finance minister I quite hopeful that in the coming years we will succeed beyond our wildest dreams. The necessary and viable reforms have already been made in the policies for this purpose. In this manner our path to progress and development is not likely to have any impediments and if there are still some left, the government is determined to remove them. Now the businessmen from other developed regions are continuously visiting India to initiate talks for collaboration in various fields. These foreign businessmen are of the opinion that India and China are going to be the most developed markets and tough competitors in the coming decade. If we use our resources and capabilities efficiently, the changing world could prove conducive to the growth of our prosperity.

In this context, India should face no difficulties on the economic front while ratifying the GATT agreement next year. The problems that may surface would be administrative or of the political genre. Efforts are now under way to smooth out the possible administrative or legal impediments, and the preparatory meetings to this end are taking place regularly. The industrialists are hopeful that the current fiscal year will see the industrial growth rate reach 11 percent. This will definitely boost our exports. They expect that by 1995-96 our exports are going to be a cool of progress and profit. The increase in oil its flying numbers, and in future would surely enhance demand and production. The experts estimate that by the year 2002 the world commodity business will increase by 12 percent. In dollars this growth is likely to be of $745 billion, with $230 billion being the world income. How much profit and advantage the developing countries will be able to derive out of this phenomenal growth will depend on their export capacity and productivity. The experts feel that in the next two to three years India will be capable enough to derive an advantage out of this situation, provided it succeeds in solving certain issues. For this purpose continuous contact is being maintained with the industrialists. The Finance Minister is prepared to make some more concessions in next year's budget.

No Need To Worry Now many issues and many international conferences is increasing the world trade evident. This offers a challenge because some people in the history of human society are in much deprivation and on high a poverty have increased upon them and numerous. Debates and disputes are continuing in the vital issue in Western Europe and the United States which like our own debates on the subject are common in nature. All nations must adjust to the ever changing circumstances. This is essential. However there is the fear lurking in the mouth of the developing and developed countries about who will get more job opportunities. Normally in the open and liberalized system in the future who manufactures more at less possible fee or is efficient to admit that free trade system is the best for all. Under this situation in this connection the World Trade Organization which is likely to replace the GATT agreement, be able to protect the interests of the developing countries? Though only time will tell but India must nevertheless take every precaution to meet properly its adjusting in the new world order which has been assigned only a short time limit for its implementation. Hence there is no need to unnecessarily worry in this morning to over the new order.

Iran

Velayati Urges Nuclear Free Zone in Middle East

LD2609144094 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Geneva, Sept. 26 IRNA—The Islamic Republic here here Thursday reiterated the need for declaring the Middle East a nuclear free zone and proposed the concept of deterrence security for the Persian Gulf region as the most applicable and most beneficial.

Dr. Akbar Velayati speaking at the opening day of the World Conference on Disarmament further added that all nuclear facilities in the Middle East region must be placed under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and nuclear programs must be frozen there.

The Middle East Velayati added, should not move quickly towards the establishment of a nuclear free zone as well as a ruder free of other weapons of mass destruction.

Underlining the need to explore the possibilities for non-member threshold states to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the time of the NPT review next year, Velayati said the situation of Israel and its refusal to submit its nuclear facilities to IAEA safeguards is of paramount importance in this respect.

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...is ambitious nuclear program constitutes a major threat to the countries in the Middle East.

As for the Persian Gulf, Velayati said, after two devastating wars of aggression, a much deeper foreign is needed. The extent of foreign military presence and the amount of armaments which pours into this area is served only to make

During the first war Iraq was awarded in arming itself with all types of weapons. Huge loads of arms shipments arriving through various ports in the region, ended up on Iraq and "I took another war and a sustained international condemnation to turn this huge military arsenal and ...ing it into rust. (a) the bitter experience of the second aggression has overwhelmed the countries in the Persian Gulf so much that they are now purchasing military ...ipment at astronomical rates."

He continued that over forty billion dollars worth of armaments is flowing into the Arab states in the Persian Gulf. This is the highest among all arms purchasers across the globe. However, Iran, after eight years of war, allocates less than 1.7 percent of its budget on military expenditures.

He stressed that outside powers are the principle beneficiaries of arms race as a result of which region arms producers continue to show profit despite the demise of the USSR and essentially through their arms shipments to the Persian Gulf. Foreign powers continue to convince arms purchasing countries of threats in order to sustain and increase their sales.

"Their perceptions in the region are, thus, broadly distorted and muddled. The ensuing imbalances are bound to create more uncertainties than to enhance security," he told the conference.

Velayati further called for taking necessary measures to halt the senseless arms race in the Persian Gulf region. "Neither the region nor any of its individual states will benefit from this. The vast God-given resources of the region surely have better use than to be wasted in unusable hardware," he said.

Velayati instead proposed the concept of defensive sufficiency and said "it is best applicable and most benefitting to the Persian Gulf region. It can offer a different approach to security and contribute elements to the long-term security and stability of the region.

"This requires as a first step the establishment of a forum where threat perceptions and security concerns can be aired openly and ways to improve confidence explored," Velayati stressed.

There are many possible measures that may be contemplated in order to enhance collective security and reduce tensions such as a renewed commitment to renounce nuclear weapons and reject their acquisition along with rigorous provisions to ensure compliance.

—Joining of the NPT by the states who have not yet done so and coordination on regional implementation of the IAEA safeguards alongside cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

—Finding a harmonized approach to the ratification and implementation of the Chemical weapons convention.

—Formulation of complementary regional verification mechanisms for the biological weapons convention and finally, preparations for establishment of the Persian Gulf as a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction.

As for conventional weapons, he called for comparable ...n conventional arms and in exchange of reports on military holdings within the region.

—reduction in defensive spending and channeling the defence savings to regional development projects.

—building confidence towards security schemes on the basis of ensuring defensive capabilities with minimum amount of armaments.

And finally, devising security arrangements for the Persian Gulf through regional cooperation.

He added that the U.N. could play an active role as it is mandated by the Security Council resolution 598, to initiate and pursue this regional scheme.

Consequently, he added, the Persian Gulf can become a secure as it is prosperous with a genuine political will on the part of the littoral states to move towards cooperation instead of wasteful confrontation.

"We better not ruin our own generation by generations to come and indeed the entire humanity. If we do not seize this opportune moment to bring about a safer and more secure world," he concluded.

Velayati Meets UNHCR; Returns From Geneva 2 Sep

[Text] In a meeting with the Islamic Republic's foreign minister in Geneva, the UN High Commissioner for Refugee Affairs [UNHCR] described the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and especially in Sarajevo as disturbing. During the meeting, which was held yesterday on the sidelines of the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, the situation of Afghan, Bosnian, Azerbaijani, and Rwandan refugees was discussed.

Velayati called on the UNHCR to increase efforts to prevent the problems of Azerbaijani and Afghan refugees at international forums and to attract humanitarian assistance.

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This morning the foreign minister returned from Geneva, where he participated in the Disarmament Conference and explained the Islamic Republic's views on various issues.

Argentina Sends 'Message of Understanding'

[2030GMT940904] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Even Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] The Argentine Government has sent a message of understanding [takahom amiz] to the Iranian Government. According to the Central News Unit, this message was submitted to the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Buenos Aires.

The message stresses that the Argentine Government regards the upgrading of bilateral relations as very important, that it calls for the strengthening of ties with Tehran, and that it will make great efforts toward this. This message was dispatched following the rejection of accusations against four Iranian officials regarding the explosion at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

MKO-Mossad-CIA 'Propaganda' Discussed

[GUNDOGDU Tehran JOMHURI ISLAMI in Persian 24 Aug 94 pp 1-2]

[Editorial: "An Ill-Reputed Triangle"]

[Text] The uninterrupted ballyhoo coming from Washington and Zionist officials is becoming audible everywhere. Those who know the terrorist record of the American and Israeli regimes and know that Israel's existence is based on its hegemonistic rule of terror, crime, and massacre are surprised at the recent utterances and comments and do not know whether America and Israel have abandoned their terrorist policies and want to call on everyone to follow suit or if they want to cover up their crimes and terrorist acts with yet another behind-the-scenes objective that is still not perceptible to the world.

Whatever the objectives of Washington and Tel Aviv in the new round of propaganda maneuvers on terrorism, they have "betrayed" themselves early on and have been caught "red-handed" in the eyes of nations.

In an article entitled "Threat From Iran," THE WASHINGTON POST has again listed all the pretexts on which U.S. propaganda against Iran, the revolution, and Islam is based. And although this article was written in a very ill manner, its authors were unable to hide the "soul of the thread" of the issue. This article has three major aspects:

(1) Describing the Mossadegh hypocrites, referred to as Mojahedin Khalq Organization, MKO[1] as an important information bank on the system of the Islamic Republic.

(2) Linking the fate of America and the West with that of the Zionist regime.

(3) Pleading that the isolation of Warren Christopher, the spiteful U.S. secretary of state, be prevented.

There may be those who think that these are three separate issues and cannot be linked. But today the monafeqin, Mossad, and the CIA have turned into an "ill-reputed triangle" to confront the world movement of Islam and specifically the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this article THE WASHINGTON POST reflects America's rage, in that the United States is the sole country disseminating propaganda against Iran and the world movement of Islam, and complains about Europe and Japan not following suit and their continuing to expand ties with Tehran despite Washington's advice.

The reason for this failure and defeat in Washington is very obvious in THE WASHINGTON POST article. For its analysis of Iranian affairs, Washington relies on ill-reputed and disgraceful terrorists, terrorists the characteristics of which Europe is well aware.

Let us not forget that because of its spiteful nature and its idiotic behavior, America has deprived itself of the enormous benefits of the Iranian market; naturally it will never be happy with the expansion of European and Japanese economic-commercial ties with Iran. But again, as one expected, Washington is encouraging its allies to expand relations with Tehran.

Under such conditions, how much can America's propaganda against Iran be worth? Even if, during his meetings, Christopher wears threats and warnings, he still cannot conceal the knot of problems in U.S.-Iranian relations, because his hellish lie has found form to be known by Washington's European allies as a "spiteful secretary of state" who constantly repeats accusations against Iran and Islam at every session and meeting. All of Washington's allies have become accustomed to hearing Christopher's hostile comments and have opted to choose their own path.

It is because of this that THE WASHINGTON POST's analysts feel that Washington is isolated in this despicable game and have concluded that "America is alone in its decisive stance against Iran." But they assert that Washington should act alone. Apparently THE WASHINGTON POST's analysts were not in a normal psychological state when they reached their conclusion, because even among decisionmaking officials in America, no logical person wants to once more witness America's disgrace in its confrontation with Islamic Iran.

Tehran 'Exasperated' at U.S. Accusation on Bombing

[GUNDOGDU Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 94 p]

[Editorial: "U.S. Cannot Fashion To Implicate Iran in the Argentine Bombing"]

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[Text] In their anti-Iranian propaganda campaign the United States and its Middle East proxy, the Zionist entity, have so far leveled four accusations against the Islamic Republic, namely, human right violations, efforts to achieve nuclear capability, opposition to the so-called Middle East peace accord, and state terrorism.

In its latest anti-Iranian offensive, the coalition of world Zionism and the United States concentrated its efforts on damaging Iran's international standing by falsely accusing the Islamic Republic of complicity in the July 18 Buenos Aires bombing.

In its blind support of Tel Aviv's Zionist regime, the White House issued several statements accusing Tehran of state terrorism and cited the Buenos Aires bombing as an example. However, earlier this week Argentine officials declared that they have found no evidence to support those accusations against Iran.

In an interview with the Spanish-language daily EL PAIS Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati said: "This sort of behavior leads us to assert that the United States and Israel are looking for any pretext to accuse Iran." He added that, "If there is no proof against Iran's involvement, explain the fact that just minutes after the attack, an Israeli minister arrived in Brazil."

Considering the fact that Argentina has condemned Iran, the U.S. and Zionist statements accusing the Islamic Republic of supporting terrorism are ludicrous and reveal the hallucinatory ravings and ravings of a mentally disturbed person.

American and Zionist anti-Iranian propaganda is aimed at turning industrialized Europe against the Islamic Republic. But consequently, this objective was not realized. The failure of the U.S.-Zionist campaign against Iran could be attributed to two factors.

1) European industrialized countries resent U.S. dictates and are against subordinating their own national and foreign policies to those of the United States.

2) Assigning the U.S. accusations against Iran, without submission of credible proof by the American authorities, is against Europe's political and legal interests.

Iran's prestige, and the importance and significance of its pivotal role in regional and international affairs, cannot be made to suffer by such feeble attempts. The international community has long realized that Iran does not need to resort to terrorism to reach its objectives of international justice and worldwide support for the oppressed.

Sooner or later America and the Zionist entity must succumb to the same realization. Iran's regional and international stability and its expansion of trade and cooperation with other countries cannot be damaged or halted by negative propaganda campaigns. In this era of political, social and cultural awakening, there is no room for American-Zionist dictatorship, bolstered by false accusations against those who dare to challenge the U.S.-Tel Aviv dictators.

ICO Representative on Upcoming Session

NC1109060594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 94 p 7

[Report on interview with Sahab Zargaresh, Iran's permanent representative to the headquarters of the Islamic Conference Organization, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] Tehran—Iran's Permanent Representative to the Headquarter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization—ICO] in Jeddah, Sahab Zargaresh, in his interview with TEHRAN TIMES, said that an extraordinary session of OIC foreign ministers is to be held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on September 5, to discuss the pressing issues of the Muslim world.

He said the agenda includes Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Palestine, and Kashmir, ministerial session. Iran has called for the inclusion of the Karabakh issue.

On Kashmir, he said, Iran favors a political solution to the issue. Peace and cooperation in the South Asian region, and Iran and OIC will continue their goodwill efforts for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem.

Another important topic at Islamabad will be a consensus stand of all OIC states against the spendour Salman Rushdie, who was declared an apostate at the Riyadh foreign ministers meeting in 1989. As part of cultural defense, a consensus stand is to be adopted against all attempts to attack or undermine Islamic values and religious sentiments. The Iranian mission is active in this regard.

Question: The OIC summit supposed to be held in Saudi Arabia. What prompted the change of the venue to Morocco?

Answer: The two countries have apparently agreed on the change in venue in view of the fact that Morocco is the head of the OIC Permanent Commission on Jerusalem. Iran welcomes the move since it was agreed between the two countries and approved by OIC.

The summit is being held at a crucial juncture.

The Muslim world is passing through a sensitive stage and the hopes of Muslims are attached to the summit which is to be held in mid-December this year.

[] Could you enlighten us on the next meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

A: Iran, as a member country, will actively participate in the IDB meeting which is scheduled to be held in Jeddah in October. The practices of the bank in terms of economic interests of member countries will come up for

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[illegible] at the meeting, which will also see the inauguration of the IDB headquarter in Jeddah.

Iran's Minister of Finance and Economy is to actively participate in the session. IDB facilities belong to all member countries and should be enjoyed by all.

Q: What is the OIC position on the West's cultural assaults on the Muslim world.

A: All Islamic countries are facing a cultural and information attack from the West, especially the one-way current they are being threatened with, and in order to counter this are making efforts to promote their own culture.

The OIC has come up with two strategies in this regard, cultural and information, of which the first one has already been approved and will be soon be implemented.

The information strategy is to be approved at the OIC information ministers in Damascus, after the summit. Plans have been drawn up for an 'Islamic Vision' a joint television network of Islamic countries which will, of course, be broadcast to member states in accordance with their regulations.

Q: What is the OIC stand on human rights?

A: Iran clearly stated the Islamic position on human rights at the United Nations General Assembly of human rights in Vienna. It focused on promoting Islamic values and local culture in this regard.

At the OIC session in Cairo in 1990, member states approved an Islamic human rights declaration. Iran and several other countries want the setting up of a International Islamic Human Rights Convention similar to the World Human Right Convention.

Q: Did the OIC take any stand on the Cairo conference on Population and Development?

A: The OIC Secretariat and its Fiqh academy have voiced their opposition to the Cairo conclab. The OIC chief is due in Tehran, one can ask him the OIC stand.

Q: Do member states observe OIC regulations and are they serious on Islamic unity?

A: Islamic unity is possible in the area of conceptions, cultural contacts and in political issues. Islamic governments have shown readiness to coordinate stands and cooperate in different issues. At least such cooperation will greatly reduce tension.

As for OIC regulations, it is important to note that Islamic countries more or less share the same components except in some cases, where they are subjected to Western pressures or have their own peculiar problems.

But, for example, in the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue member countries have observed OIC resolutions. Such arguments vis-a-vis the OIC leads to positive results. It could be said that OIC members are just like UN member states, but here we have more cultural and religious affinity and the urge to follow the resolutions more than any other world body.

U.S. Accused of Seeking "Second Israel" in Iraq

NC2209164094 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Aug 94 pp 1, 12

[Commentary: "Iraqi Kurdistan—a Second Israel," from the "Weekly Political Analysis" column]

[Text] The alternate senators of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, and Turkey ended its work this week after discussions and exchanges of views on the problems in Iraqi Kurdistan. At the end of the session, all three countries emphasized their common views on the need to safeguard Iraq's independence and territorial integrity and stressed that the division of Iraq would hurt all neighboring countries and the entire region.

It was under such conditions that several members of Britain's House of Commons visited Iraqi Kurdistan and tried to propagate separatist ideas in one way or another in a bid to ensure the long-term objectives of the colonialists in the region.

The truth is that today America, France, Israel, and Britain are resorting to unsolicited in an effort to turn Iraqi Kurdistan into a "second Israel." The problem is that, unfortunately, Turkey continues to do its best to help implement this plan. Although Turkey's foreign minister has shown his support for maintaining Iraq's independence and territorial integrity, the major question that regional nations ask is: Why is the Turkish regime doing its best to grant freedom of action to the subordinating forces of NATO in northern Iraq, which are stirring up Iraq's divisions and are fanning the flames of conflict under the label of the "Provid Hammer" forces?

Let us not forget that the group of British unsolicited-makers entered northern Iraq through Turkish territory and that they propagated slogans of dividing Turkey's Kurdish provinces from Iran. The question is why didn't the officials in Ankara protest?

The fact that hegemonistic powers are striving for the division of countries in the Third World is something that defines the very essence of the satanic powers. But why is Turkey serving them? And, although it is being harmed by doing so, why does it continue to cooperate with them? Experience has shown that Turkey cannot create crises outside its borders but that it cannot be safe from the insecurity that results from such crises.

Therefore, all regional countries should resist the scheme with a feeling of concern and responsibility and stop separatism in Iraqi Kurdistan, which is being cultivated by the West and Israel, because otherwise they will be helping to create a second Israel.

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Turkey's Policies on Kurds, West Criticized

[Commentary by Salah "Will Turkey Give In to the West's New Plot?"]

[Text] In their alternate session, which was held in Damascus to discuss the problems in northern Iraq, the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria stressed the need to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity and rejected attempts by foreigners and separatist elements in the Kurdish areas.

This session, which was the sixth in a series of meetings because of the sensitivity of the region and the seriousness of plots to separate, discussed the special situation in the area and condemned all steps that are aimed at Iraq's dismemberment as well as the West's planned conspiracy under the label of separatism in the Kurdish region.

The tripartite session of Syria, Turkey, and Iran aimed at achieving coordination on common regional problems and exchanging views on the situation in northern Iraq, despite the need for the three countries to work together in dealing with the West's plots to open a dangerous wound in northern Iraq and spread it to the other regions of this country (see further specified). Therefore, by exchanging views and achieving coordination, the three countries of Iran, Syria, and Turkey should carefully observe the incidents in the region and resort where the necessity exists.

However, a few days before the session the Turkish prime minister (sic), appointed Turkish Foreign Ministry Mumtaz Yarsal as saying that Turkey had referred the Kurds issue to the agenda of the session and that it had also coordinated with Baghdad on certain issues.

Of course, even though this may have happened, it is largely regarded as a propaganda gesture and a commercial attempt by the new Turkish foreign minister, who ought to be accepted by Turkey's domestic circles as a political scientist, an author of political encyclopedias on SECURITY, and a fellow politician. Therefore, the fact that he accepted the post of foreign minister in Ciller's cabinet—a post that the Turkish public considers that of a veteran implementer of U.S. and NATO policies—[word illegible] no doubt about Mumtaz Yarsal. Although he is trying to redefine himself as a leftist politician and show that by accepting the post his views have not changed. This is why he held the necessary consultations with the Iraqi officials about the agenda before the Damascus session.

Also, recently the issue of Turkey's loss of billions of dollars annually from damages inflicted by the Persian Gulf war and the sanctions on Iraq and that the time has come for the Iraqi oil pipeline to be reopened since the West is not paying compensation has once again been brought up in Turkey.

Meanwhile, before being appointed to his post Mumtaz Yarsal repeatedly stated in his articles that the multinational force known as "Provide Hammer" which has been deployed on Turkey to fulfill the West's interest plot in northern Iraq, should leave Turkish territory as soon as possible. Therefore, in view of the tripartite session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria on the situation in northern Iraq and the role that the multinational force in Turkey plays in implementing the plot on dismembering Iraq's Kurdish areas, he finds it more difficult to shoulder the responsibility of upholding his past ideas.

However, the most important problem is the fact that the Turkish politicians are giving in to the West's policy on "creating an independent Kurdish rule." Recently, Demirel said: "If the West has decided to create an independent Kurdish rule, it will do so and we will not be able to do anything to stop it."

Although efforts were made to amend these remarks, which actually showed "surrender to the West's wishes," Demirel's recent remarks proved how the policy of surrender does continue to exist among the Turkish politicians.

Two weeks ago Demirel said: "In addition to its domestic crises, Turkey will soon be facing acute foreign crises. We will maintain our unity. But the establishment of an independent rule in Kurdistan is on the agenda of the West's diplomacy."

He added: "This is the reason why the West has now changed the way it looks at Turkey and is now looking at us with a new face and [former relations between Europe and Turkey becoming more critical in early September (next week)."

These remarks show that on the one hand the officials in Turkey want to safeguard their country's territorial integrity and, on the other, they are weak when it comes to the overt pressures of America and the West on creating an independent Kurdish rule and on giving in to the presence of a dangerous wound in the region and to the leaders of Iran, Syria, and Iraq. Signs of their surrender are visible. Then, apparently some circles in Turkey are trying to gain the West's support and to give in to the policy of foreigners in the region.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Georgia

[ANKARA] "Text" [Ankara Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Sep 94]

[Text] At the end of the Georgian deputy prime minister's visit to Tehran, a memorandum of understanding was signed by our ministry of finance and economic affairs and the Georgian deputy prime minister for the purpose of expanding bilateral ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Georgia.

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According to a report by our correspondent, our country's finance and economic affairs minister, explaining the contents of the memorandum, said: It has been decided that about 50 million cubic meters of gas be exported to Georgia in return for the import of necessary goods from that country from next year.

The Georgian deputy prime minister, in an interview with our correspondent, called for the expansion of industrial-commercial ties between the two countries and said: Our aim is to revive the close relations between the Georgian people and the Iranian nation.

Clinton Said Right To Consider Iran 'Threat'

[article ID illegible] TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Islamic Iran Will Continue Its Righteous Path"]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton, addressing a Jewish-American audience a few days ago in Chicago, accused the Islamic Republic of supporting terrorism and called Iran a rogue nation. Clinton added that the United States will stop these terrorist activities. This statement was made after the Argentine Attorney-General, Nagel Aguirre, [sic] told the state-owned TEHRAN [TEHRAN] news agency that "There is not enough proof" against Iranian officials accused of involvement in the July 18 bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

[illegible] to send the case to the country's Supreme Court. Instead, he sent it back to the investigating judge who had originally named the Iranians as suspects. The Argentine Supreme Court must take note when foreign officials are involved in criminal incidents, but only when solid evidence is found in support of the allegations.

The fact that after weeks of intensive investigations, with the full cooperation of MOSSAD and the CIA, Argentina's Attorney-General has found no evidence linking Iranians to the bombing proves the Islamic Republic's view that the Zionist entity and its supporters in the United States are conspiring to portray Iran as a terrorist nation and turn the industrialized nations of Europe to end their economic ties with the Islamic Republic.

It is a well-known fact that all U.S. Presidents began their re-election campaign two years into their presidencies. That time is fast approaching for Clinton. It is also a political reality in Washington that if a candidate or an incumbent does not turn the Jewish vote his election or re-election fail is doomed. Clinton's recent anti-Iranian utterances should be analyzed in light of the two above-mentioned facts.

The Clinton crisis, which is at the midst of establishing itself as a legitimate country by making a list of false promises to its surrounding Arab nations and to the world, considers the Islamic Republic to be the only obstacle to achieving its objective. Iran's moral and spiritual strength and influence are indeed the only force that can foil this Zionist plot against Islam and the Muslim Ummah.

In a way, despite his naivete in foreign affairs, Clinton is right in considering Iran to be a threat. The Islamic Republic does pose a danger, but not to peace, as the U.S. and the Zionist claim. Iran poses a serious threat to imperialist and neo-colonialist designs in the Middle East region and throughout the world. The Islamic Republic has in the past, and will in the future, stand up for justice, and will use its moral and spiritual influence in Islamic countries and the rest of the world in support of the oppressed.

Responding to Clinton's latest anti-Iranian rhetoric, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, told a group of foreign dignitaries in Tehran yesterday that "From the point of view of the members of Islam, adherence to Islamic principles and the belief in the independence of Muslim nations is a crime. But in our view these same factors are the secret of survival and success of Muslim nations. Based on this belief, the people of Islamic Iran will continue on their righteous path."

U.S. Add. ICPD Proposals Said Linked

[article ID illegible] TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 94 p 14

[Commentary by M. Mofeid: "U.S. 'National Security' and the ICPD"]

[Text] Egypt's MENA News has reported that "America has declared world population control as the objective in its national security policy" and has asked Islamic countries to support the resolution proposed by the West to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which calls for free abortion, illegitimate sexual acts and homosexuality, threatening that if Islamic countries do not support this resolution, it will affect its economic assistance to them.

A few points should be made in relation with this:

1. "spreading homosexuality, illegitimate sex and free abortion in Islamic countries is the objective in U.S. national security policy. This objective is so significant that America has even threatened to arrest economic assistance to fulfill it.

2. America has put pressure on puppet regimes to demand that particular paragraphs that conform with Islamic laws be omitted from the resolution. And by forcing these governments to accept such decisions, America is further weakening their basis and creating confrontation between them and their people.

3. The International Assembly of the Ahl al-Bayt (AS-ABI) in Tehran and the al-Azhar University in Cairo have condemned the proposal, saying it contradicts Islamic teaching, and have asked that the resolution be rejected.

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The statement against the resolution, by a large Sunni establishment in Egypt, in tandem with a similar statement by the Tehran-based Shiite establishment like the IAAB is noteworthy. That these two statements coincided with Umra Week should be considered a good omen.

A. The Vatican has expressed its opposition to the resolution and extended a hand of cooperation to Islamic countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that this resolution can be confronted jointly. Confronting such a resolution serves favorable grounds for cooperation among the followers of the various religions against corruption and impiety, which rule in many countries, but only in the Islamic Republic of Iran against crime and corruption, but is steadfastly committed to the task of righteousness. It is hoped that the followers of the divine religions will start their increasing cooperation to confront the various aspects of crime and corruption that emanate from Western culture.

Peres Attempts To Isolate Saud To Fail

[Editorial "Peres in Israel's Anti-Iran Plan"]

[text] One of Israel's foreign policy aims is to keep the Islamic Republic of Iran isolated. The Zionists have good reasons to fear the anti-revolutionary Islamic nation. Iran makes no secret of its opposition to the Zionist state and openly sympathizes with revolutionary movements in Lebanon and Palestine who seek to end the savage occupation of their lands.

The Zionist regime is also angry with Tehran because our leadership believes the so-called Middle East peace process is a sham and holds out little if anything for the oppressed Palestinians. Though Iran is not actively involved in obstructing the peace process, Israeli officials are fearful that as the country at present ruled by the people the does not represent all the Palestinians, it has been repeatedly singled out as the main obstacle to Mideast peace.

The Islamic resistance in Israeli-occupied Palestine and south Lebanon has all practical reasons to cut ties with Iran. Tehran has long rewards the Iranian capital for its assistance and ideological support.

This is what worries Israel, the occupying power which for more than two decades has enjoyed unquestionable military, economic and political backing from the United States. And to add insult to injury Israel has committed many atrocities and mind-boggling human rights violations with American money and arms. Yet it is not only Tehran but also identified as a citizen of Islamic power with because the U.S. enjoys wants is that role. Europe was also allowed to think and function on similar lines.

Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres was in Germany this week to remind its leaders of the 'values Iran' policy. He obviously failed to enlist Bonn's support for Israel's obsolete anti-Iran program and also rejected the European Union's 'controlled dialogue' with Tehran. The Zionist minister returned home empty handed and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel replied to his caution or strong views that his government has other important things on mind besides kowtowing to Tel Aviv for some fanciful suffering during Nazi rule.

During talks with Peres, Kinkel said he 'expressed regret that Israelis and Jews around the world are still victims of terror.' May be the cause of international peace and stability would have been better served if the German official had also told his guest the other side of the story. Once Israel starts respecting international norms, conventions and resolutions, stops its criminal occupation of all Palestinian territories, gets out of southern Lebanon, frees all Muslim political prisoners and liberation fighters, may be then Israelis and Zionists will not be attacked.

The whole world knows that Israel has got a problem of legitimacy. Its illegitimate birth and boundaries are still subjects of unresolved international debate and dispute. Talk to the Europeans in private and they will tell you that they are sick and tired of Israel's recalcitrant posture and blackmail since after World War II. It would seem that the convergence of neo-Nazis in Germany and their counterparts in Europe is a very natural response to Israel's irritating and uninvigorated reference to the Jewish holocaust which many experts now doubt had ever occurred.

When the Soviet Union died so did Israel's importance to western Europe. The Americans have tried and failed to convince European nations (London included) of Israel's plight and Iran's 'terrorism.' The reason is that definitions are out of context: actually Israel is a terrorist state and Iran a victim. Documentary evidence of Tel Aviv's terror exist in the archives of many western institutions but the same is not true of Iran. The Rushdie knighting is one recent example.

Germany under Chancellor Helmut Kohl is a unique case for many reasons. Its trade, diplomatic and cultural contacts with Iran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution have few parallels. Iran, on the other hand, gives unparalleled to its German relations. Mr. Peres will be serving his boss better if he goes to London to tell all the anti-Iran rubbish.

Israel's 'Malicious Accusations' Discussed

[Editorial "Failing To Implicate Iran in the Argentina Bombing, Zionists Try Unknown Parties"]

[text] The Zionist Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with German officials this week to outrite them into

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Nepal

Election Commission Recognizes 48 New Parties

BK1309084894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 13 (AFP)—Nepal's political scene looks set to become even more complicated as 48 new parties are officially recognized more than two months ahead of November's general elections.

Nepal's Election Commission (EC) has registered and recognized the new groups, including two new ruling Nepali Congress (NC) factional parties, and a neo-republican "Nepal Janabadi Morcha" (Nepal People's Front), an EC official said Thursday [12 September].

This brings the total number of NC parties contesting the polls to a bewildering five, and analysts say this could give the NC vote, giving the six leftist factions standing for election a clear advantage.

But while Nepal may now be awash with choices for the Nov[ember] 15 polls, the country's Chief Election Commissioner said not all the parties will get a chance to form the next government.

"Only five political parties, including the ruling Nepali Congress (another organization), the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), the Nepal Sadbhavana Party (pro-Madhesi party), the United People's Front and the National Democratic Party-NDP), have officially been recognized as national level parties," Bhatt said.

Nepal, with a population of just under 19 million, has 29 constituencies. Almost 14 million voters over the age of 18 are expected to register for the November 15 poll.

If political newcomers want to throw their hat into Nepal's rambunctious political arena, they will have to part with Rs 100,000 [$1,500].

"The new parties have to show at least three percent of the total votes cast in the mid-term polls to get the status of national level parties," another EC official said.

A highly placed Nepali Congress (another organization) source said: "Mr. Parti, president, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has sent a letter to the EC requesting it not to

Indian diplomat. Chauhan was caught red-handed while receiving sensitive documents. He confessed during interrogation that India had a hand in aggravating communal and ethnic disturbances in Pakistan. It was also revealed by him that agents of Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing had been involved in the incidents of attack on mosques and [illegible] of worship and firing on Muslim worshippers immediately afterwards. Imam arrested a Pakistani diplomat when he was shopping in New Delhi and collected him in custody. Then they made false charges against him and expelled him from the country in retaliation against the Pakistani move.

Pakistani secret agencies have time and again reported that the Indian Consulate in Karachi is involved in various type of ethnic, linguistic and communal disturbances in Karachi and finally used the names of weapons and funds to their agents. On the basis of this information, the government had contemplated the closure of the Indian Consulate in Karachi. However, after waiting for quite a long time and giving considerable thought and getting confirmation of above-mentioned reports, the Government of Pakistan took a firm decision and expelled [illegible] Singh of the Indian Consulate in Karachi. Indian court should have realized that the heinous activities they were involved in was not permitted under international norms, and could not be justified under universally accepted moral values. The Indian move to expel a Pakistani diplomat in retaliation without any of the expulsion of the Indian envoy indicates that India is trying to create tension in the region. Pakistan's decision averted the possibility of such action.

Minister Says No Purpose to Boycott of ICPD

[illegible] the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) [illegible]

[illegible] the foreign minister denied that Islamabad felt that Pakistan is opposed to some of the views on agenda of the world conference on population and development which are against Islamic teachings and values. Interviewing process of visas for a number of members of the National assembly today, he said Pakistan was only conference which views on the agenda but would challenge them at the conference. He said these objectionable views have not only been opposed by Islamic countries but also by a number of other countries. He said because of the conference would not serve any purpose, but the best way was to face this international challenge at the conference [passage omitted]

Religious Parties Receive Foreign Funds

[illegible] of the Commission [illegible] on Capital [illegible]

[illegible] continued)

[illegible] Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar said that all the religious parties are taking financial aid from different countries in cash and their activities

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He was responding to a privilege motion moved by Maulana Azam Tariq that a particular sect was getting financial assistance from Iran to kill him. Babar said there should be a complete ban on all the parties to take any assistance from foreign countries, adding "Maulana's party is also getting aid from a foreign country."

Wednesday's (31 August) session of the National Assembly witnessed a spate of allegations levelled by Maulana Azam Tariq against Iran and its meddling in the internal affairs of the country.

He alleged that Iranian consuls and local citizens visited to Iran have coerced Pakistan to assassinate religious leaders in the country. Quoting the example of Maulana Qasmi he said "Maulana Qasmi had repeatedly informed the government that he has been to hit list from Iranian consuls and eventually it exactly happened." He lashed out at the government for its failure to check the Iranian threat.

In an emotional outburst, he challenged the government to stop him from entering the capital without armed bodyguards and said "I will see who can stop me from attending the session without his own armed security arrangements."

Interior Minister Nasrullah Babar immediately said "The rules of law are same for everyone. I will disarm the Maulana if he enters the capital with arms."

Earlier, on a privilege motion, Maulana Azam Tariq accused the government of conspiring to have him killed and that is why they had taken away his security guards, mobile police guards, the arms of his gunmen for personal security and disallowed him to accompany Kashmir Committee delegation abroad although all the travel arrangements as a Chairman. He said "this is their conspiracy effort to have me killed." He also criticized the Kashmir Committee headed by Qawakibuddin Nasrullah Khan and said "this committee is a joke and just a fraud (show off) of the government."

While narrating the details of the attempt on his life, he said all the murderers belong to Dhoker Nijo Beg who had set his killers out to work. He alleged that all the religious were being protected by the prime minister House and other high officials, adding "because of this protection Dhoker Nijo Beg operations were flopped."

He said while coming to Islamabad he was being cleared by the people who rocket launchers, rifle grenades and other explosive weapons, adding "I know rocket launcher because I have used it myself (gunmen on withdrawal)."

He further alleged that one of the culprits confessed in the police custody of taking Rs 10 million advance from Iran to assassinate him. He said these people are being trained at the base of Iran's Embassy to kill the religious leaders.

He further alleged that despite nominating two culprits in the FIR (First Information Report) police had not arrested them and they are enjoying freedom.

Replying to Maulana's allegation and repeated challenge that he will enter Islamabad with his armed bodyguard, Babar said I will not allow any body to take law in his hands. I will enforce the law and will disarm him if he tried to do so." Babar asked the Speaker to mark his words that he had used rocket launchers and said "I will not permit a person who used this to take arms into the capital."

Maulana again stood up and announced that "I will see who will disarm me." Babar said "I will enforce the law I am sure protection government will provide me security."

The maulana also said that his party had never received a penny from any foreign country and if government proved this allegation he would quit from the assembly.

Babar welcomed the statement and offered maulana to sit with him to probe the issue of getting financial aid from foreign countries.

Government Bans Firearms in Karachi

BK0709061194 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Excerpt] Karachi, Aug 2[illegible]: The government has decided to make Karachi weapons-free city prohibiting even licensed weapons in public to combat violence and terrorism and to check heinous crimes, official sources said.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting which reviewed the ongoing operation clean-up in the context of prevailing law and order situation in Sindh and problems [illegible] to forge coordination and administrative lapses in dealing with the crime situation.

The meeting was attended by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani, Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar, Governor Mahmood A Haroon, Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah, Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ishfaque Khan and other federal and provincial government officials on Saturday [27 August].

The Prime Minister, while directing strict action against criminals, claimed the government did not believe in taking action on ethnic or sectarian lines and thus would deal with criminals without any discrimination.

In view of the gravity of the law and order problem and the importance the government attaches to its resolution, President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari had specially flown in from Islamabad to attend this meeting along with the meeting on Karachi package.

The meeting was of the view that more stringent measures were required to improve law and order situation in the province.

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In view of President's recent meeting with MQM [Mohajir Quami Movement] senators in Islamabad, which were aimed at bringing about a reconciliation between MQM and the government both in Sindh and at the Center, it was expected that the meeting would review developments in this regard but officials were not commenting whether this matter was deliberated upon in this meeting or not.

However, informed sources said that the President had kept the Prime Minister informed about the developments in this regard and they were understood to have discussed the latest situation arising out of MQM leader Altaf Hussain's statement which the government sources said was intended to derail the apparently positive results of the talks with the President and the Army Chief earlier in Islamabad.

Highly placed sources said that concern was expressed on the mounting incidents of strike, violence and other acts of violence in the megapolis and other parts of the province and strict measures, without any discrimination, were decided to counter them.

It was decided that these anti social elements must approach police and take advantage of the laid down procedures for obtaining services of security personnel.

While reviewing the incidents of kidnappings and target killings, the meeting is understood to declare it [illegible] a lethal and banned weapon for which no compromise will be made. They said, [illegible continued]

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Says 'No Secret Deals' With LTTE

[illegible]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga Thursday assured the country there will be no secret deals with Tamil separatists but that she was committed to ending ethnic bloodshed.

Field commanders backed Kumaratunga's partially lifting an economic embargo on supplies held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) during a meeting, a defence source said.

"But a single commander disagreed with the lifting of the embargo. They suggested that these items could be taken off from the list of banned items," a defence source at the closed meeting said. AFP

The meeting was the first that front-line officers leading troops in the drive against the LTTE had with the political leadership in Colombo in the past four years.

"She was very clear in her mind that she wanted a lasting peace and not peace at any cost. She said there will be no secret talks with the LTTE and that the military will be involved in the peace process," the source said.

Fourteen rounds of secret peace talks between the previous government and the LTTE ended in failure in June 1992 leading to more bloodshed.

The source said Kumaratunga wanted to improve the living conditions of people in the northern Jaffna peninsula which is under LTTE domination. She was also keen to provide better facilities to government troops.

Kumaratunga Wednesday took off 16 items from the banned list of 42 that could not reach to Jaffna via the island's north.

There had been no immediate reaction from the Tigers to Kumaratunga's peace overtures but the LTTE had over the weekend agreed in a ceasefire following an initial offer of a "hand of friendship."

However, the defence source said that field commanders suggested there should be a ceasefire and LTTE in agreement with the Tigers who are leading a terrorist campaign to establish an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

'Sweeping Reforms' Announced on Press Laws

[illegible]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 31 (AFP)—Sri Lanka announced Wednesday sweeping reforms to press laws to give journalists greater access to information and remove restrictions on the conduct of legislators.

Justice Minister G.L. Peiris told reporters that the new government was drafting legislation to take away the powers of the Current Press Council to try newspapers accused of defamation.

The minister said he expected the new laws would fully ensure the freedom of the press in Sri Lanka, where successive governments have resorted to indirectly exerting pressure tactics to subdue the media.

Peiris said there were also taking away the right of MPs to block the publication of material relating to their actions. "Parliamentary privileges should not be used as a vehicle to suppress the media," he said.

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